

# 黒の魔王

VIII

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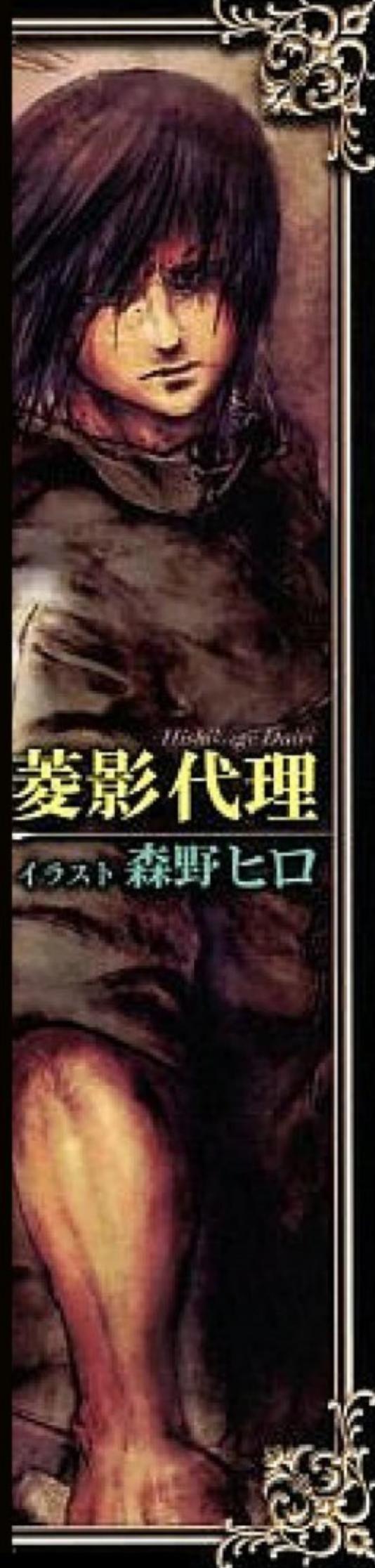
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FREEDOM  
NOVEL



# **Kuro no Maou**

**Volume 8 - Alsace Defensive Battle**

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# Chapter 102 – Adventurer Alliance Vs. Crusaders (1)

Receiving the attack order, the vanguards of the Crusaders, that is, the armoured knight squad started moving.

The knights in Full plate armour and tower shields along with the halberd in their hands moved together in a horizontal line. They gave off a pressure as if a wall of iron itself was approaching close.

“Don’t shoot yet. Arrows and attack magics won’t have much effect on them anyway.”

Kurono spoke to the adventurers that were standing in front of the fence with long range weapons like bows in their hands.

The heavy armoured knights had already stepped on the bridge and were clearly inside the range of the bows but Kurono still did not give the order for attacking.

“It must be the enemy’s squad with the strongest defence. As far as we know, there should not be any squad more heavily equipped than them.”

Standing beside Kurono wasn’t Lily but the eldest of the elf sisters, Irina.

All three sisters were gathered here and were pouring their magic in their bows [Sylphlight] to fire at the approaching enemy.

“By sending the heavy armoured knights first, they would probably use the infantry to attack next. They must be using them in place of castle siege weapons. Well, if it’s those knights, they definitely can breakthrough both the wooden fence as well as the barbed wire.”

If they allowed those knights to approach like this, the main gate would be easily toppled and it will open the path for the next squads.

If the gate was broken through, they will be unable to stop the enemy who possessed immense numbers and Alsace would fall by noon.

"It seems they are fortified with light magic. Also—a defensive light magic has also been deployed it seems."

"Then neither arrows nor attack magic would have much effect like this. They really have an iron wall like defence right now."

In Kurono's original world, the era of armours ended with the introduction of guns.

Even if someone covered himself in iron, he won't be able to stop a bullet. If guns became the mean weapon of the enemy, then armours would end up only as a decoration.

But with the help of magic, bullets could be deflected in this world.

Their advance would be difficult to stop with just the firepower of the Adventurer Alliance.

Fiona had told Kurono about such ranks of armoured knights that use composite Union magic to obtain an extraordinary defence.

These heavy armoured squads were able to completely defend against long range attacks to compensate for their slow movement speed.

Then what could they do? How could they stop such a squad that possessed such an immense defensive ability? It was a situation that would make everyone else think that it was over but,

"Kurono, you're laughing."

"Yeah."

Kurono was laughing.

"Well I can't help but laugh. I really didn't think that such an amateur tactic would actually go so well—"

The knight squad had approached them much closer on the bridge. The sound of their steel heels as they marched could be heard by every adventurer here. Yes, they were currently exactly in the middle of the bridge.

"Do it. Blow up the bridge." (kurono)

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The moment he heard that sound, Norz suddenly regretted a lot of things in his mind.

Why did he make them advance through the bridge without even checking thoroughly?

Why did the enemy choose a place like this that was surrounded by rivers to make their last line of defence?

Why, at the last moment, had he underestimated them and thought that there would be no trap?

But all these thoughts were now too late. That's why they were called as regrets. No matter how much he regretted it now, the lives lost would not be returned. Yes, the heavy knights that fell into the river would never show their silvery splendour ever again.

*DODON!!*

The sound of explosion roared.

“Im, impossible.....”

Norz, as well as the troops waiting alongside him could not believe the scene for an instant.

The bridge on the river was supported by numerous thick pillars that would not crumble no matter how many carriages drove over it. That could be seen from a single glance.

There's no way it would have collapsed from the weight of those knights.

But those pillars had easily crumbled and collapsed along with the exploding flames that blew up.

By the time they realized it, it was already too late. The enemy had laid some kind of trick on the bridge no doubt.

Cutting some important parts, or maybe they weakened the structure itself and then destroyed the bridge at the perfect timing through the use of some

kind of remotely controlled magic.

To explode something through magic like this, they either needed to draw a magic circle or attach a magic item or they could infuse energy inside a rod beyond its limit etc etc. As long as they had time and magicians, it was not impossible to do it.

“This is impossible!!!”

Norz’s shout was drowned out by the thunderous crumbling sound of the bridge.

The pieces of the bridge blew up and scattered in mid air as the armoured knights pathetically fell below.

These knights could defend against arrows, flames, lightning with their high defence but against the flowing deep river, they were totally powerless.

The tough and sturdy armour as well as the defensive light magic, both were useless if they were completely drowned. But due to the immense weight of their armour, it was impossible for a human to resurface back and he could only drown while being trapped inside their armours like a coffin.

“Ad, Advance! Save the heavy knights!!”

In front of the view of the knights drowning while trying to resist by flapping the water, Norz gave the order for rescue.

Probably, more than half will die. But, they needed to save as many as they could no matter how small the number.

That feeling did not come because he really wanted to save the lives of his subordinates. He only wanted to lessen the responsibility of letting the knights die due to his own negligence by saving at least a few knights. As various thoughts came into his mind, Norz ran towards the river leading his troops.

“Look! The ones who fell in places where the depth isn’t high are still alive! Hurry up and pull them out!!”

The Rone river did not have a despairing depth that could drown all of the heavy knights. Knights trying to desperately come towards the shore while only a small part of their helmet was above the surface, could be seen here and there.

They need to at least save those, that thought was also completely destroyed as another thundering explosive sound resounded.

“What was that sound?.....”

*DODODODO* a sound like a river that flowed at high speed during heavy rains came from upstream.

Impossible, every soldier thought that but the sound kept on getting louder.

The weather was absolutely clear today. It hasn't rained at all. There's no way the river water would have raised.

But, the sound only came closer.

*DODODODODO!!*

By the time they realized, a giant wave came and devoured everything inside the river, whether it be corpses or living ones, without any distinction.

In just a few seconds, all the knights and soldiers inside the river had completely disappeared from the river as the flow of the river settled.

A few 100 meters upstream from the collapsed bridge, a single witch was standing.

“I wonder if that much was fine?”

It was Fiona Soleil, the member of Kurono's party [Element Master] and clumsy and reckless witch who could not control her own magical energy. She was also the reason behind the flash flood that drowned the knights in the river.

The method was very simple. Fiona had simply fired the highest level of water magic that could generate an enormous amount of water into the Rone river.

Inundating a castle normally required the creation of a dam and time to hold up water there but Fiona had created both the conditions with a single magic.

“Yeah, it worked brilliantly Fiona.”

In Fiona's hand was a lightly shining white crystal. From it, Kurono's voice could be heard.

Using Lily's telepathy as a basis, this crystal could be used to talk with people who were far away instantly.

"The enemy will soon realize that there is a magician upstream so quickly return here."

"Roger."

After the short conversation, the crystal in Fiona's hand broke.

Since it was an item made hurriedly without using any proper techniques and design, the time allowed for communication was small. It was a use-and-throw item.

Just because there was magic, it is impossible to create something convenient like an all purpose cell phone but for the time being it was plenty useful.

"fuu, I am not really used to using water magic." (Fiona)

Fiona threw away her water magic enhancing wand that had become useless with a single use and started walking back towards the village as per Kurono's orders.

"Maybe because I used an element I'm not used to, I've gotten hungry now. Aah, I really want to eat an ice candy right now."

'Didn't you just eat breakfast?!" Kurono's voice could not be heard here.

# Chapter 103 – Adventurer Alliance Vs. Crusaders (2)

Seeing the heavy knights drown in the river in front of them, the Crusaders' advance had completely stopped.

They actually wondered whether they should continue or not. Seeing the heavy knights being annihilated in front of them had caused them to think of retreating for now, but,

“Attack! We’ll cross a river of such a level without a bridge!!”

Norz chose to attack.

“Bu, But—“

“I’ll be the vanguard! Follow me!!”

Before his subordinate could even say anything, Norz started moving towards the river.

Since the commander himself had taken the initiative and moved, the troops couldn’t just stand and watch.

“Follow the Priest!”

“There are no more traps! Attack!!”

“Revenge for the knights!!”

“Kill the enemies!!”

“Kill the demons!!”

“In the name of God, exterminate the demons!”

The troops resolved themselves and jumped into the river.

After confirming the advancing soldiers, Norz gave further orders.

“Magician squad use Boost enhancements and magic shields to protect the soldiers crossing the river. Let the Pegasus Knights sortie as well!!”

Everyone of them obviously understood that they'd be defenceless while they were crossing the river.

Rather than forcing the magicians to cross as well, Norz decided that it would be better to use them to help the soldiers through Force Boost to stop them from drowning and by putting up defensive magics to protect them from long ranged attacks.

“Priest-sama, will we able to break through their gate without the magicians?”

“It's just some wooden fence and some iron wire spread out for no reason. We need neither castle siege weapons nor magicians squad to break through something like that. Once the soldiers charge, the gate will immediately fall.”

Norz thought that they were lucky that this village didn't have a stone wall like Kuar.

There was huge difference between a wall of wood and one of stone. Robbers or bandits might be stopped by the wooden fence but it doesn't have the strength to stop such a number of soldiers.

“Also, I'll destroy the gate myself so there is no problem, right?”(norz)

Norz gave a confident smile towards his subordinate.

And the troops knew that it was neither a joke nor was he overestimating himself. He clearly had that much power.

The monsters that had attacked them in villages had been dealt by Norz himself after all.

The whole occupation army had already deemed Norz as a hero of great valour and strength.

“Oi, incoming!! Put in all you've got and advance!!!”

Literally, a rain of arrows came down upon Norz and the soldiers that were moving through the river.

From the other side of the protective wall, or maybe from the black guild, the demons had fired arrows from their bows.

The sound of cutting air resounded and sharp arrowheads rushed towards the

troops who had no choice but to advance steadily.

—جدار الضوء الأبيض لمنع انتشار المرض— Lux wall — Light wall — Lux Wall Defence!"

Norz's defensive magic was deployed and a shield of white light covered around 10-odd meters area around him.

Also, the defensive magic casted by the magicians on the river bank also took effect and protected the troops from the rain of arrows.

But it was unable to protect every soldier crossing the river, and those who were unluckily out of the range of the defence magic had their bodies pierced by numerous arrows.

(“Quite a lot of casualties are appearing, but, there is no other way!”)

Without even glancing towards the soldiers falling one-by-one, Norz kept on moving forward without any regrets.

When Norz and others reached the middle of the river, the depth of the water had already become a bit more than their heights, and they began to gasp as they swam while bearing the weights of their armours as well as their weapons.

From there onwards, the attack became even more violent.

Along with arrows, low level fire, ice, and wind attack magic also came raining down on them.

Seeing various elements raining down felt like as if it was a natural disaster but it was very normal for a battle in this different world. And of course, even Norz had been expecting that.

(“But still, the amount of lightning magic used is much higher.....is it a coincidence?”)

A magician could not use all the elements. Usually it's 1 or 2 and in rare cases at most 4 elements.

The affinity of an element depended on their personal constitution and did not have anything to do with someone's talent as a magician.

Basically, if a large amount of magicians were gathered and asked to fire together, they all will not be able to attack with the same element.

Since they are fighting with their lives on the line, it should be obvious that they would use magic that they are most used to. It was the same for even demons. Just as how a beast would use his claws and fangs, they would use the most familiar magic without any doubt.

That was what Norz was thinking but, the fact that almost half of the attacks were of lightning element, he had no choice but to rethink again.

(“No doubt the enemy is using lightning magic on purpose!”)

And the reason behind it was simple enough that even a soldier who had no knowledge of magic could understand.

“Gyaaaa!!”

“Oi, don’t come closer to the point where it falls!”

“You goddamn idiot, do you think I can dodge inside this river!?”

“Even if it doesn’t hit directly, you’ll still be struck by electric shock!?!?”

“Get, get away!! I’ll drown——“

After all, the number of soldiers falling due to lightning magic was too big.

(“The enemy is clearly aiming to shock us with electricity.”)

Norz quickly realized the intent of the enemy.

Flames would disappear when they hit the river, ice would end up floating, and wind would only raise a splash.

But lightning would affect the surrounding area as well by scattering in the water. Damage will be dealt just by being close to the point where lightning falls.

Thus, even if the soldier avoids death or fatal blow, if their limbs become paralyzed, they’d drown in the river.

Everyone could only take care of themselves and could not help each other in such a situation. In fact those who were drowning were taking other down with them as well.

In this place every single lightning magic had the same effect of a wide range attack magic.

“Shit! Damned demons! Just how long will you continue your insolent tricks!!!”

Norz shouted in anger. Behind him the pitiful sounds of those who had become unable to move and were drowning came.

(“Bear with it, we must bear with it for now! We’re almost at the opposite shore!”)

The vanguard group had already crossed the centre and could once again reach the bottom of the river with their feet.

Although, the number of victims that died from the enemy attacks or by drowning, just kept on increasing.

Also, the defensive magic of the magicians will not reach on this side. It was going to be a severe battle where they’ll have to face the enemy attacks directly with their bodies.

Still with the enemy line (goal) in sight, they moved without faltering.

(“They’re just a small force after all. Even if they attacked us inside the river, it’s still far from completely defeating us! As long as we land on the other side, we can break through their petty defences and then raise a bloodbath!!!”)

The number of adventurers in Alsace village wasn’t big enough to overturn the number difference.

The amount of blood that has flowed was already too big but victory was still in their hands. Norz was still confident of that fact, that is why he didn’t even look back and kept on moving with anger.

(“Just a little bit more!”)

Only 50m were left till the opposite shore.

In the next half hour, they’ll break through the gate and will rush inside the village, Norz predicted so.

But the Crusaders still did not know that two dark magicians were lying in wait for them while holding absolute will and power in their hands.

# Chapter 104 – Cross Fire

“There are quite a lot of them.”

Crossing through the river that was being rained with numerous arrows and lightning, white figures started approaching.

We had shot down a lot of them but the enemy are moving as if it didn’t even affect them. I once again realized that our enemies have an incredible number of soldiers on their side.

“Say, can we really—stop that?”

Irina-san who was standing beside me while firing countless lightning arrows at once, asked me that.

Those words were filled with half doubt and half expectations.

“It’ll be fine. We’ll stop them definitely.”

For now I’m waiting for the enemy to enter our firing range.

“In my wor—homeland, this had changed the way of war itself. It can completely stop soldiers to charge in from the front.”

Probably. But I didn’t say that. I can’t use vague words at such a moment after all.

“Well whether it’s true or not, we’ll know in a few minutes.”

“that’s true, I’m looking forward—to it!”

The enemy would completely cross the river after a few more meters.

I guess pulling them till here is enough.

“Magic Bullet Arts—“

With the black baton [Black Ballista Replica] in my hand, I pointed it towards the oncoming Crusaders.

I concentrate my magical energy as I wait to release the thousands of bullets that have been already [Loaded] inside. And soon the enemy finally entered the

kill zone of my black bullets.

Filling every bullet with hatred and the will to kill, only sarcastic words came to my mind as I got ready to send them to the other world.

“Welcome to Alsace— Sweeping fire – Gatling Burst.”

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“—منع صخرة حجر كبير جدار لحماية Terra Armour Shield!!”

Before even feeling any killing intent, Norz instinctually felt danger bells ringing inside his head.

His instinct had saved his life countless times till now and so this time as well, he let instinct rule his body as he deployed an intermediate level defensive earth magic.

A giant rock wall came out from the river bed and covered Norz’s body completely.

And the very next moment he felt bloodlust along with the sound of explosions, something bursting and getting destroyed— and also, screams

“wh, What!?”

A lot of something ‘hard’ came and smashed against the rock wall.

Norz shouted when he realized that the rock wall’s surface was being shaved off but there was no one who could answer him.

The subordinate who had been standing right next to him till now had already become a silent corpse and had fallen.

And it was not just him. The corpses of the troops kept on rising, 2, 3, 4—in a matter of few seconds, the number of corpses had increased exponentially.

Norz finally realized that small countless black balls were being fired at them.

The pierced into the bodies of the soldiers at a high speed not traceable with the eyes of a normal human and, depending on the point where it hit, it could

instantly take the life of the soldier.

“This dark element magic—no, could this be the black magic activated from the divine protection of the evil god!?!“

Peeking out slightly from the cover of his giant shield, Norz focused towards the source from where this bullet attack was coming from.

In his eyes, two jet black figures appeared, that were firing bullets towards the soldiers from the two ends of the fence while making a *giyarigiyari* systematic sound.

(“I see, so that’s the identity of the ‘Devil’ that annihilated Kievan’s squad!?”)

He didn’t know whether he was correct but to him that was how evil the image of the man dressed in full black and an evil-looking face along with the other one that had only a skull as a head looked like.

But what was more surprising wasn’t their evil appearance but the power of black magic that could create a mountain of corpses so quickly.

The man was using a baton and the skull-head was using a never before seen long tube of iron. Norz confirmed that these were the ones firing the bullets.

(“Were the soldiers who came back after running telling the truth? Could it be that they can really use insta-kill attack magic consecutively?.....”)

The countless bullets flew and easily pierced through their chainmail and gave fatal wounds.

The remnants of Kievan’s squad had certainly testified that but, Norz had only perceived it as [ there is one strong adventurer there] only.

Although he regretted not thinking up any counter tactics against the ‘Devil’, he quickly changed his thoughts and focused back into the battle.

“تجنب الثابت، هيئة قوية لحماية— Terra Defence!!”

To face those black bullets without any cover was too dangerous. Norz activated a defensive magic, although of lower level, but one that could cover the maximum area.

A wall of rock appeared from the riverbed but it was much thinner than his

Terra Armour Shield and could not guarantee absolute protection against the bullets.

(“Not making the magicians cross the river has backfired on me. I can’t protect the troops alone.”)

Numerous soldiers scrabbled over to take cover against the Terra Defence but even its covering range was also limited.

There were those who could not make it in time, those who were far away in the first place and those who unluckily got hit by bullets that pierced through even the wall and hit them. There was no end to the increase in the deaths.

(“As long as we do not have a way to defend, stopping would actually increase the damages. There is no other way but to harden your resolve and keep on advancing!”)

“Do not falter! Keep on charging! Attack!! We have the greater numbers; we’ll settle it in an instant!!”

Norz once again raised his voice and gave the order to attack.

The soldiers had already resolved to die. If there was no way to retreat then they could only try and advance. All the soldiers understood that.

“uooooo! Attack!!”

“Aim for that black devil!!”

“Yeah, if we can kill it we’ll win!!”

“Kill the devil!!”

“In the name of God!!”

“Kill the demons! Kill the Devil!!”

Stepping over the corpses of their fallen comrades, the Crusaders advanced while raising their shouts.

“Yeah! Advance!!”

After confirming that the soldiers had started to attack, Norz also resolved himself to move.

“تجنب الثابت، هيئة قوية لحماية”— Protect Boost”

Putting the minimum defence enhancement on his body, the moment he was about to get out of the cover,

ZUGAN!!

The giant shield was pierced by something and the shock blew Norz towards the rear.

“Guhaaa!!!”

Within his faint consciousness, he saw the two giant black logs that had pierced his giant shield and he also saw the ‘device’ used to launch the logs.

“A Ballista?.....Why, do they have something like .....”

“Priest-sama!”

“Priest-sama was shot!!?”

The shouts of the troops felt very distant to Norz.

“Don, Don’t be flustered, I’m fine.....”

He realized that two soldiers were supporting him but his vision was spinning around as if he was drunk and he couldn’t even make out their faces.

“Don’t mind me, Go, retreat is not—“

While his consciousness became even fainter, in the skies above, he clearly saw countless shadows even then.

“—The Pegasus Knights have arrived. With this, we’ll win.....”

As Norz gave a smile, he let go of his consciousness.

With soldiers attacking from the ground and the Pegasus knights attacking from the air, the defence of Alsace protected by the Devil will definitely fall.

Norz was still sure of his victory.

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“Amazing! This really is an amazing weapon!!” (mozrun)

Mozrun was excited as he fired the machinegun supported on a carriage.

His appearance was definitely like a death god and now that he had taken so many lives, he truly could be called a reaper.

“Take that! Good job coming from the other side of the sea just to die!!”

Hiyaha!! His hyena like laugh didn’t suit the image of a death god at all though.

But the machinegun was clearly the weapon of a death god that could take lives in an instant. Also only he, a dark magician could make use of this.

Kurono had requested Simon to make a machinegun but in this different world where neither science and tech nor the machine industry had been developed, they could never make a machine gun similar to that of what exists on Earth.

What Kurono wanted was a substitute magic for his [Magic Bullet Arts]. He wanted to build a weapon that would rapid fire bullets with magic and not with gunpowder.

In short, this was Magic Staff based on a machine gun. In the first place, [Guns] were only of such type in this world.

It’s appearance was only like a box with a grip from which a barrel tuck out. From Kurono’s pov it was a very ill-formed gun. But its inside was built with a magic similar to Kurono’s [Magic bullet arts] which made rapid firing of bullets possible.

And the only one who could use this magic technique was the dark magician Mozrun who had the most similar type of magic to Kurono’s black magic.

“Mu! No good, the barrels heated up. Quickly, change it!!”(mozrun)

“”Yes!””

2 goblins quickly started to replace the barrel of the machine gun.

Thanks to the practice done just for this day, they were able to work very smoothly.

In the first place, the magic formula behind the machinegun was –‘ to cover the technique equations with actual materials/substance’.

For example, the gun barrel had the effect of deciding the bullet's direction and stability of the trajectory.

When you think of firing bullets with magic, one has to put magical energy and concentration to fix the above aspects as well before using the magic itself.

By using the 'substance' called gun barrel, the amount of techniques and formulas required were lessened.

The [Staff] that is the weapon of a magician was meant to reduce the burden on the caster. This machinegun was also made with the same effect in mind.

Kurono's [Magic Bullet Arts] were made with an image of gun in mind in the first place. Conversely speaking, if a 'shape' like a gun was also given, most of the formulations could be left out.

The magic effects required to fire the machinegun are 'loading the bullet' and 'a force to be used in place of gunpowder'.

The bullets are 'summoned' directly inside the chamber and then all that's left is to use dark magic to bring out enough pressure to fire the bullet directly out of the barrel.

Mozrun could exhibit both these magic effects well which is why he could use the machinegun to display the same destructive strength as Kurono.

By the way, since the part of firing the bullet is done through magic, there is no trigger even though it's a gun.

"Boss, how's it over there?"(mozrun)

Since Lily's telepathy was currently covering all the area in the surrounding of the main gate, anyone could freely talk as long as they were in the area.

Mozrun communicated with Kurono who was many meters away.

"I can still keep on firing. What about you?"

"I can make bullets but the barrels are exhausting very fast. I won't last too long like this."(mozrun)

"I guess that problem would come considering how hurriedly we created it. But right now we have no other choice. Use them as much as you can without

destroying it by cooling them."

"Leave it me! I might not look like it but I'm pretty damn good at economising!"

Ahhahha. Kurono gave a wry smile as he heard Mossan's usual cheerful laugh.

""The barrel has been changed Mozrun-san!!""(goblin)

"A'right! Then let's start firing back again!!"(mozrun)

He once again clasped the grip and started a full burst against the advancing army.

Crusaders that attacked with a tremendous number; the only reason they could not come any closer was due to Kurono and Mozrun were holding the line through their Cross firing.

That idea came from the time when Kurono had single-handedly killed over a 100 soldiers of Kievan's squad at Irz village. Although at that time he was under the berserk state due to the cursed hatchet, his memories of that time were still vivid.

After Kurono became the leader, when he was using his almost nil experience to think up plans, he once again realized the tremendous effect 'shooting' had against them.

To have been able to kill more than a 100 soldiers alone was due to simple advantage that a gun had over a sword.

And so he thought, that if he was able to prepare even one more machinegun like attacking method, they could use 'crossfire' to efficiently kill the advancing troops of the enemy.

Cross fire was called so because two machineguns were used in a line that their target range intersected at a point. It was a tactic that was very efficient when defending.

This tactic had first appeared during World War 1 but was also used in the Russo-Japanese war as well, or so Kurono remembered.

And the same scene was once again revived her in this Alsace defensive battle as well.

The distance to the other shore was left was only about 10 meters. But it was distance that no one was able to cross to.

Legs getting trapped in the flow of the river, the speed of the river's flow made running almost impossible and made the distance to the other shore much greater.

But still, the soldiers kept on advancing without even knowing the fact that until this rain of black bullets stopped, they would not be able to even get to the other shore.

# Chapter 105 – The Sniper Alchemist

The adventurer guild nicknamed black box by the Crusaders was currently acting like a powerful war tower that was launching numerous arrows on the enemy.

Except the [Three Hunting Princesses], almost every adventurer that could use a bow was currently stationed at the guild.

Due to that, the ones standing at the gate and using the bows to attack the oncoming Crusaders from the front were actually swordsmen and warriors.

Thanks to that, the skilled archers could position themselves in high places suitable for aiming at the enemy and could focus solely on providing cover fire as they were protected by the blackened guild.

And, on the rooftop of the guild, where most of the archers were positioned, an even higher pedestal was kept on which stood Simon along with a long sniper rifle.

“2’o clock, distance 380, from the appearance looks like a squad commander, no shield.”

Beside him, the rank 4 thief slime Susu was acting as the observation supporter.

Along with the job as a supporter, she was also acting as the gun’s scope as well.

By turning her arm back to the normal slime form, and adjusting the composition of that transparent substance, she created a lens that could magnify far off objects like a binocular.

This transformation by using her Extra magic was used by Simon as a scope for sniping.

“.....I see him.”

The figure of a defenceless magician chanting a spell reflected in his view.

The man, who was guessed to be the squad commander of the magician

squad, was unable to realize till the last moment that he was being aimed at from the top of the guild building on the other side of the shore. His head was blown away and his chanting was interrupted for an eternity.

“Got him in one shot again. You really have good skill.”

“Not really. It’s the gun that’s amazing.....but, thank you.”

Simon replied blushingly to the compliment he was not really used to listening.

The gun Simon was using right now was also one that was hurriedly constructed from the day he met Kurono but its power and performance was much higher than anything he had used before.

In the first place, Kurono had assigned only 2 duties to Simon. The first was the manufacture of the machinegun and the other was for him to participate in the battle as a sniper.

Going back in time, this happened after Kurono somehow made explanations to the angered Lily who had barged into the laboratory and had sent her back.

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“Say, Onii-san, tell me more about the guns in your homeland.”

The one who spoke first was Simon.

It was the weapon he had created with all his skills, and now he had been told that there were similar types somewhere else as well. There was no way he wouldn’t be curious.

“yeah, alright, um, where should I start—“

Since they didn’t have the time to talk leisurely, Kurono concisely gave an explanation regarding guns.

Kurono explained about how , at his homeland (earth), guns were the main weapons in armies, how they were shaped and their structures and also how guns could take many more lives than a sword.

Well, Kurono wasn’t trying to preach Simon about the dangers of a gun though. What he wanted at that time was a powerful gun instead.

“There are three improvements you can do right now. One is to attach a stock, second is to apply some rifling in the barrel, and —”

Kurono activated his magic bullet arts on his fingertip and placed a black bullet made out of magical energy in front of Simon.

“Last is to use my bullets.”

“This is, the same bullet that Onii-san used with his magic just now right?”

“Yeah. Although I can’t make gunpowder, I can make countless steel warheads. If you could apply Eternity property on them, they would last for numerous days and we can create more than creating bullets from scratch.”

“But without gunpowder, it won’t fire. I’m not a magician. The gunpowder I’m using right now is a fire-type magic stone. It’s not something very cheap.”

Even if the effect was same, the raw materials for gunpowder were different in the different world it seems.

But to Kurono, the change in raw materials wasn’t something to be concerned with. All that was needed was to fire the bullet properly. Thus the only part he needed to concern with was the procurement of the gunpowder mentioned by Simon, but,

“Magic stone?”

Kurono had no idea what it was.

But Simon didn’t really think too much about it and continued speaking.

“I’m talking about that red gem that can be seen on top of fire staves usually. You do know that Magic staves are much higher in price than swords, right? With the amount I have, buying even a single one is a bit doubtful.”

The reason why Kurono, a magician, did not know about [magic stones] was because he never really had the need or chance to buy magic staves.

By the time he registered as an adventurer, he had already gotten the [Black Ballista Replica] so there was no need to buy another staff. In the first place, Irz village’s item shop didn’t have a black magic or a dark magic staff.

But still, he had seen magic staves many times and also understood its

structure so he could quickly understand what part referred to the magic stone.

But, it's not necessary that a magic staff would definitely use a magic stone, but that's a different matter altogether.

"Then, how many magic staves would you need to have sufficient gunpowder?"(kurono)

"If I have 10 of them then I'll have enough till the next year, but seriously, that's asking too--"

"Then I'll prepare 10 for you."

"—what?"

"What, is that not sufficient?"

"That's not it! How will you prepare 10 of them!?!"

"Well, we can use anything left in the village freely after all. We should find enough if we search the weapon shop's storehouse, right?"

"What's with that bandit-like thought process!? Isn't that robbery!?"

Well that might be true but for Kurono who had gone as far as to use scorched earth tactics, he had absolutely no hesitation in using any 'resources' available to them.

Simon felt unease looking at Kurono's 'Use all that is available' attitude.

"I'll let you have the preference in using the things in the village. Also, you'll need a smithy to create guns as well right? I'll prepare one of that for you as well."

To Simon who had been only able to do research with his small budget, it was a too attractive of an offer.

"I'll be in your care then!"

As a result, Simon decided not to mind the trifling details and started with the manufacturing of the gun.

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And what he had created was probably the first ever Sniper Rifle in this world called [Yatagarasu] that he used to deal head shots one after the other to the enemy magicians.

By the way, the naming was done by Kurono.

“At my homeland, the gun used by the head of mercenary long ago was called [Yatagarasu].”

When he heard the name, Simon somehow instantly liked it and accepted it.

(“This [Yatagarasu] is really an amazing gun. Thanks to Onii-san’s advices, I was able to make something of this level.”)

Simon’s prided gun was still firing bullets from its muzzle and was shooting the enemy magicians down.

As expected, it was still a single shot type but Simon who had an immaculate aim had a kill count higher than anyone on this rooftop.

(“But not yet, there’s still room for improvement in this gun. Even the machinegun should be able to fire without the use of magic as well.”)

From the day he met Kurono, his head had become filled with all sorts of new research.

That was how invaluable the information and knowledge brought by Kurono was for Simon.

(“That’s why I can’t die here. I have too many things that I still want to build! I’m not going to be killed by some men who appeared out of nowhere!!”)

Simon’s survival instincts were working stronger than ever before. But in contrast to the hot and passionate thoughts, he was still coolly and calmly shooting down every target.

“n, that’s—”

“What is it?”

The one who recognised ‘that’ the earliest was Susu.

“The Pegasus Knights have appeared. At 11’o clock. Can you see them?”

Looking through the slime lens scope, the figures of the Pegasus Knights flying over the forest far away could be seen.

“There are.....more than we thought.”

“Yes, but, we have no choice but trust right now.”

“.....yes.”

Once again clutching the grip, Simon once again showed maximum concentration.

He still did not need to face against the Pegasus Knights. He just needed to kill as many magicians as he can right now.

The fearsomeness of the Pegasus Knights had been heard from a lot of adventurers. But Simon did not feel any fear towards the Pegasus Knights approaching this place right now.

That's because the one who was going to face those Pegasus Knights was the even more fearsome ‘Fairy’.

# Chapter 106 – Fairy vs. Pegasus Knights

In a certain room of the guild, Lily was sitting alone on the floor.

Just outside the thin walls a battle is taking place and a lot of blood is flowing on streets. Naturally, the great noise is also reaching that room too but strangely, inside the room was an atmosphere screaming ‘Dead Silence’.

That is something the figure of Lily sitting on top of a shining magic circle with her eyes closed might be making the atmosphere.

She is playing the role of communicator between adventurers through the magic circle through which she is using the Telepathy magic.

And that role of hers is soon going to end.

“Lily, I think you have heard already, the Pegasus Knights are here.”

“Yea.”

Kurono’s voice resounds in Lily’s head.

Understanding the meaning of the words, Lily speaks a word of affirmation and nods with her small head.

“I will cut off the Telepathy from now on, change to ‘analogue’ communication methods.”

The moment after Kurono gave these orders to every adventurer, the telepathy network disappeared.

Right now only Kurono and Lily can talk through telepathic means.

“Sorry Lily, I gave you the most difficult role.”

“No way, it’s alright.”

A pure reply, without any sarcasm.

Lily takes the Queen Beryl placed on floor in front of her.

“I leave it up to you, Lily.”

By the time Kurono’s faith filled words reached in her head,

“Yeah, just leave it to me.”

The little girl was no longer there, all that stood was a beautiful girl with long, slender and well-proportioned body. [ET: First time author wrote good words]

Lily, who took the power from Queen Beryl, takes action to complete her role.

“Just wait Kurono, I’ll beat those ‘sluts covered with feathers’ soon enough.”

Those words were said after cutting off the telepathy, so there is no chance they will ever reach to Kurono.

And he also had no way of knowing, the gruesome smiling face full of bloodlust of Lily.

“I’ll try hard, so you have to praise me later, Kurono”

Lily opened the window, spread out her rainbow-colored wings and flew up in the bright sky.

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The Pegasus Knight Troop is made up from females only. That is the same in Arc Continent and Pandora Continent.

That is because the in the Pegasus tribe, only the females (sluts) have feathers. And except some rare cases, the ones who ride on them are also females (sluts).

The Pegasus Knight Troop under Norz heading towards the Alsace Village was also made up by females only.

Below them the infantrymen were losing their lives easily due to cross fire.

“Seems like the rumour of the ‘devil’ is a truth.”

The girls are flying in the sky in a splendid formation. They are not in the range in which their words can reach other, but due to them each having a telepathic magic item they can talk with each other while flying with no problems.

The magic item that lets others talk with each other in their minds in real time comes at a very high price, but the class called as ‘Pegasus Knight’ have more

than enough value to have them.

“How horrible they are, I can see the bloodied river from here.”

“If we don’t support them, we will only have more useless casualties.”

“Really? I don’t care if it’s a devil or crap, but I really don’t think that this sort of attack will keep on continuing.”

“Isn’t that alright, to just let the men keep on attacking? Soon enough they will break through that gloomy forest.”

“That’s right, the infantry are expendable assets after all, just let them have their way.”

“Shut your mouth, though only we can hear us, that is problematic statement.”

“Ye~s”

The girls’ voices were not filled with any tension while heading to the battle field where a lot of their comrades have died.

That was neither because of no fear of death nor faithfulness to mission.

That was because the difference between infantrymen and Pegasus Knights. In the first place the defensive power of Pegasus Knight is at another level compared to infantrymen. Infantrymen will die from an arrow or two but that is something impossible with Pegasus Knight.

The armour of the girls are enchanted with boosts such as ‘Light weight’, ‘Force’ and ‘Concentrate’.

Only the elite soldiers expert in martial arts magic can wear such high-class amour.

The infantrymen are incomparably inferior in armour and even skills.

In the battlefield the possibility of the girls returning alive is obvious. None of them are thinking that hostility from the attacks going on below them that have killed a lot the soldiers can kill them too.

“—But , you girls are going to die here.”

That time, the voice of a beautiful girl is heard.

No, heard is not the right word here that is because it resounded directly inside their minds.

“Who is it!?”

The captain of Pegasus Knights notices that the enemy, a demon has appeared.

“My name is Lily. Welcome to Alsace village and goodbye.”

The voice of the beautiful girl the girls heard was transparent and beautiful but all were mixed with malice, enmity and bloodlust.

“Stay vigilant, we might be targeted—”

“Ufufu, foolish person.”

The Pegasus Knight Troop takes battle stances, and Lily’s voice ridicules them.

“Meteor Strike.”

Above the Pegasus Knight Troop, cutting through the clouds, a rainbow coloured light appears.

A scene that looks like a star is falling down in the night sky.

The high speed light draws near the Pegasus Knights as if it has its own consciousness.

“From above you say!?”

The attack Pegasus Knights have to stay vigilant for is the anti-aircraft magic attacks from the surface. The only ones that can attack from above them are Pegasus Knights, Dragons or else some sort of flying monster.

During a battle it is very rare for the existences of those who can go above Pegasus Knight to appear. And it is unthinkable that the poorly made demon army would have an existence like that.

That’s why they are only vigilant of surface attacks. The only time they can die is the time they will cross swords with demons.

That is how it was supposed to be, but the reality completely betrayed their expectations. A massive meteor is heading towards them from above having unbelievable mass and destructive power.

The attack came at them when they were not on guard and has closed its distance so much that they cannot evade it anymore. They deploy the strongest defensive magic they can in the short amount of time.

An intermediate level defensive magic is deployed boasting of great defensive power. In addition both the attack and defensive magic are light so their compatibility is not bad, that's why it will be easy to block.

'We can break through it, we will definitely break through it', the Pegasus Knight Troop leader thinks as such while heading towards the collision time between both parties.

"Ahahaha! Waste, waste, waste!!"

The rainbow coloured meteor light and white coloured shield.

The girls believed they were evenly matched in this contest of magic but the shield is smashed to pieces after a few moments from the impact and becomes a part of the seven coloured mass of light.

And the rainbow coloured light engulfs the captain along with some Pegasus Knights and explodes in the mid-air.

The explosion sound and shock wave from blast jolts the bodies of all the remaining Pegasus Knights.

"No way, Captain—"

"Hey, you're lying, right!?"

"What the hell is that power! Unbelievable!!"

The traces of the people engulfed in the blast are now not present on the face of world. The flesh and blood left of some cannot be distinguished between human or otherwise.

The numerous pieces of bloody meat scatter far away in the sky and fall down to the ground.

Now there is no trace of the girls in the explosion, the only thing left is the blood, some meat and the remains of magical power.

"Quiet down! I, the Vice Captain will take the right to command, the enemy is

above the clouds, take the interception stance—”

“I see, so you’re the next boss.”

At that time, for the first time the Pegasus Knights saw the figure of the girl named Lily.

The girls of Pegasus Knights mostly made up of beautiful girls were themselves entranced by her. The platinum blond hair, the juicy white body, and the beautiful emerald green eyes that can charm anyone regardless of gender.

The figure of her floating wearing a jet-black cloth and the two pairs of rainbow coloured wings closely resembles the image of the Fairies Princess that appears in the fairy tales.

But the girls soon return to their senses, as they recognise her as the enemy that deployed a powerful magic that killed their captain along with some comrades of theirs.

And, more than anything else.

“Wh-When did she—”

“Nh, I came just now.”

Lily was standing on the back of a Pegasus behind the Vice Captain as if holding her from behind.

The ‘enemy’ is already in front the girls. In their hearts filled with fighting spirit and enmity, fear is spreading, and it’s impossible to tell which emotion is dominant.

“Deploy Oracle Field.”

Lily while putting her hands on the shoulders of vice captain activates the extra magic the fairies boast of.

The pale green coloured light is a magic for protection from outside attacks, but it’s not for protecting those inside it.

Lily has not the least intention to save the enemy, in other words the humans, so she is using this barrier as a deadly weapon. [ET: Finally Yandere & maybe Sadistic Lily’s Killing Spree]

The vice-captain suddenly realises the abnormality that has happened to her while being captured in the barrier of a radius of 2 metres.

“What is this, hot—”

Inside the Oracle Field is full of high heat. And that so, that can melt the arrowheads of more than 100 arrows in a second.

That heat has far surpassed the temperature any existence can live in.

“Aaaaa—”

While feeling the heat that can melt the body from inside Lily’s hand, the vice-captain takes her leave from world.

The skin is heinously burned and in the next moment turns into ashes.

The figure of the beautiful Pegasus Knight is now nowhere to be seen.

The only thing left is the corpse of a Pegasus which has only the legs and armour left, all other things are burned and have turned into ashes already.

“Now then—”

The Pegasus that has died by fire and has only armour and bones left no has no more power to keep on flying in air, and by following the gravity’s order falls down.

Lily pays no attention to the person that was present in her hands just some moments before as if she has completely forgot her existence and has no interest in her at all.

“If you guys are going to surrender obediently, I will leave it at this. Of course, I’ll guarantee your safety.”

Lily asks the Pegasus Knights while her face makes a bewitching smile.

“Then, decide fast about what you’re gonna do—”

“Don’t underestimate us, damn brat!!” [ET: Oh Crap! Blood War now! Hyu Hyu]

Along with the abuse, the Line Sagita flies towards Lily.

“Did you think we, the Pegasus Knights will surrender by getting scared of a

single damn fairy!?”

The Oracle Shield completely repels the arrow; Lily did not suffer even the damage at the level of static electricity.

“I see, so that’s your answer.”

The Pegasus Knights ready their spears and spread out while taking battle stances.

This time the Pegasus Knight which declared the war takes the right to command.

Having the two main heads gone will neither diminish their fighting spirit nor cooperation. They are not called an elite squad for no reason.

Lily raises her head and glares at them while clicking her tongue as if saying ‘Ah, so much hassle to take care of them all.’

“Well then I’ll kill you all....Be prepared you ‘sluts with feathers.’”

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“Don’t underestimate us, fucking brat!!”

One of the Pegasus Knights, Ester, moves her hands and mouth before she even thinks.

The chantlessly made Line Sagita flies towards the fairy named Lily.

“We won’t get scared by a shitty fairy.”

Line Sagita hits Lily, but even Ester knows that a lower grade attack magic cannot kill Lily, who has killed many Pegasus Knights.

“I’ll definitely kill her here, is that alright?”

She asks everyone through Telepathy and came back 4 replies immediately.

“I agree with you Ester, I’ll follow you.”

“I also agree! I’ll take the revenge for Captain!”

“Eh, you won’t stop?”

“Let’s go back”

The replies from every squad leader were in agreement and disagreement both in the ratio of 50:50.

“Then retreat, Camy and Cathy are rear guard unit.”

“We have to take revenge!”

“Yea, yes, let’s join our powers and fight!”

The opposing parties also, in the end agreed with them.

They can kill her by throwing attack magic at her from left and right, up and down.

But that is only when the opponent is a human.

“Lower grade attack magic is only for stopping her movements for some time, we can’t kill her until we’ve stuck our spears into her. Franc and Maty, don’t let her escape, cover us, and also stop her from chanting or else something terrible will only come towards us. Camy and Cathy will attack with me, get ready!”

““Understood.””

“Eh, Eeh, why are we in the assault group!!?”

“It really is super scary!”

“You foolish sisters are only good in attack, that’s why!”

“Ehh, what’s that, complete discrimination.”

“Even I am only good in martial arts and am a muscle-brain”

“Stop spouting rubbish! Want to get down to ground from here by falling, huuh!!”

“Yes, yes, got it.”

“It’s good if we go, right?”

Ester, Cathy and Camy start moving their squads for attacking.

“Regret it that you have pick up a fight with us, you damn single fairy bastard!”

And so the battle between a single fairy and many Pegasus Knights started, 100 metres above Alsace village.

## **Chapter 107 – Soldier’s Role**

# **“No good!? The gun barrel is overheated! It won’t shoot unless it’s cooled down.”**

Kurono after hearing this message, he thought ‘Finally, the time had come.’

He knew from the start that the cross fire will not keep on continuing for always, some crusaders who are unhurt will reach near the unreliable protective wall.

“Understood, Mossan is to be on standby till the cooldown time is over and after it’s complete, immediately start firing.”

The adventurer given the role of messenger, runs towards Morzun to relay the message given by Kurono.

After giving the instructions, Kurono stops his Gatling Burst and takes a deep breath.

Along with taking the breath, Kurono shouts with determination.

“Open the gates! I’m going outside!!”

That voice was heard by the adventurers standing near the gates and even by the archers confined in the Guild.

“Ooooouuuuu!!”

The loud war cry by the adventurers gives the answer to Kurono’s command.

Particularly, the adventurers standing near the main gates were boiling with more excitement due to them eagerly waiting to cross swords with the enemy.

Seeing the large number of enemy heading towards them caused their blood to boil strongly rather than being intimidated.

“Hahahaha! Finally our time to show off!!”

In front of main gates, is the platoon made from strong swordsmen and warriors starting with Vulcan as their head.

They are, the reckless platoon which will jump out of gates and kill of the enemy.

The platoon is made up from many different species such as human, beast-man, elves, lizard-men, orc and golem.

But they are all waiting impatiently for the gates to open.

Before anyone knew it, Kurono was already in front of them with the 'HaraRetsu' in his hands.

"Listen well everyone, this is the first turning point.

We have buy time for the cross fire to restart, during that time protect this line of defense at all costs."

It's not much of a problem to cool down the barrel with ice and fire magic. But the problem is to keep on repeating it as fast as possible for the firing to keep on continuing.

This maintenance is the most important, they can't just destroy the machine gun on the first day. They have to keep on using it for the battles coming tomorrow and day after tomorrow for stopping the enemy.

"Let's go—"

Kurono wears his robe, and faces towards the main gate that is about to open.

"Assault!!"

The sound of door opening and the war cry of adventurers resound simultaneously.

The platoon made up of 24 people jumps at the crusaders coming towards at them like some wild animals that have been freed form a cage.

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Kurono's orders reach to the ears of sniping pair of Simon and Susu encamped on top of guild.

“Assault already.....If I had time, I would’ve made a more decent gun barrel.”

Simon understands that this assault is to buy time for the restart of cross fire.

Conversely speaking, if the gun barrel can keep on firing, then there is no need to take risk and assault.

Simon regrets the fact that he couldn’t complete a more durable gun barrel and due to that they have to add such a high-risk assault plan to buy time.

When the gun barrel was complete, Kurono gave him the words of praise and gratitude that ‘It’s well made’, but he doesn’t think that his work is worthy of that praise.

“But, there is no time to regret right now, let’s start our next job.”

Susu speaks those words as if she had guessed Simon’s heart and returns her slime hand which had been acting as a scope till yet back to human hands.

“Yes!”

Simon removes his hand from ‘Yatagarasu’ and stands up from his sniping position.

Originally, they had to go down from the pedestal using the ladders, but

“It’s better to hurry up, jump off like this”

“Eh?”

Before Simon knew it, Susu took Simon in her arms and dived from the pedestal together.

The height of pedestal is just 3 metres, therefore, before Simon could say anything they both landed on the roof of guild.

Simon didn’t notice since there was no shock of landing felt.

“T-Thank you very much.....”

For the time being, she just gave words of gratitude.

“We’re on our own from now on, be careful Simon. Especially since some of the Pegasus Knights might come inside.” [ET: She doesn’t know my favourite Yandere Lily’s power.]

“Yes, Susu-san should also be careful.”

“You don’t need to worry about me. I’m a thief, so even if I went to the front line, the enemy won’t realise my presence at all.”

‘That is the skill of assassin not a thief’ Simon wanted to say that but stops because there is no time for useless talks.

“Well then, see you later”

“Yes”

After saying those words, Susu jumps off from the rooftop of guild.

She looks like a human but don’t be disillusioned she in truth she is slime. If she returns her hands and legs to slime form then she can climb on the walls as easily as if walking on road.

Simon thinks while seeing his running off that he can do such a thing without any rope or martial arts skills or magical assistance.

“Alright then, I also have to give cover fire for Onii-san and others.”

Simon starts running while shouldering his gun. He ran towards the ideal position for sniping above the main gate of guild.

Till now he had been sniping the enemy magicians but now her role is to do cover fire to support the assault platoon.

The targets are right besides guild building, so she doesn’t need the scope, in other words Susu as a spotter.

(The commanding officer of enemy can use lower-grade magic too, eliminating him is top priority.....)

Simon decides his main target for sniping and once again set up the ‘Yatagarasu’ while standing on the rooftop. [ET: For those not understanding it....the guild’s rooftop is really long and he was running on it till before.]

The ones he will be shooting are not on the other side of shore but right below the guild.

“I don’t feel like missing a target at this distance.”

Without any hesitation Simon pulls the trigger, and the bullet flies towards her

target.

I haven't had any close combat after fighting that priest in Irz Village.

I still don't think I'm cut out for close combats.

(Chop, Chop—Kill—Chop, Blood, Kill —Death, Kill, Chop, Chop Chop Chop)

"And you remain the same, eh?"

Thanks to the bloodlust being transferred to me from the HaraRetsu in my right hand, I'm not feeling even a bit of nervousness.

Sure enough, it's odd to have a relaxation effect from a curse, but there is not time to think about that because the enemy is heading towards me.

The Crusaders are coming separately so as to not meet the same fate as that of the soldiers that started marching first.

But still, their numbers are hell lot more than the number of people that came to conquer Irz Village.

They are full of vigor due to being covered by the white shadow while crossing the river.

"Really great, I will give you more than enough blood to drink for you to evolve one more time."

For the time being, I have no other choice than to keep on killing them starting from the ones in front.

After closing a lot of distance between the enemy, I load the magic power and increase the physical power in leg and leap in one spurt.

I jump above the spears they are attacking with and attack at their heads while being in mid-air.

"Black Calm!!" [ET: Attack name!][SK: Kuronagi sounds cooler really]

I release martial art in mid-air and cut the heads of soldiers in 3 pieces.

The heads and chainmail both get cut cleanly without any resistance. As always this does have really terrific cutting ability.

The blade emits a resonance as if being delighted to taste blood after 1 week of wait.

I land in front of the three headless corpses and head towards the centre of the enemy. They suddenly cover me from all directions without leaving any gaps.

The soldiers after sensing I have closed a lot of distance between them already, throw the spear and don the broadsword hanging on their waist.

But those movements seem really slow to me.

Now that I think about it, I have killed 10 high-class soldiers when escaping from institute and that so very easily. In that case, the soldiers in front of me who haven't learnt either magic or martial arts skills, in other words 'normal human being' don't have any advantage other than the difference in numbers.

While the soldiers are taking their swords from their scabbard, I chop them all together.

The 'HaraRetsu' just like its name says, cuts the stomach of the soldiers cleanly and scatters the blood and entrails.

After I cut off some soldiers covering me, the left soldiers finally take out their swords.

"Die you Devil!!"

Everyone speaks the words of revenge and start to assault me.

Even for this hatchet, it's is impossible to kill many people coming at me in one swing.

They attack at me in large numbers—but, I have already learned how to cope up with attacks like these during the mobility experiments.

"Shadow Gate' 'Sword Arts"

A black shadow spreads below my feet and a jet black sword appears from it.

"—Pierce Through"

10 blackened swords are deployed and fly towards the soldiers coming to

attack me.

Without even looking at all soldiers that are in my blind spots of vision, I somehow know that my swords have pierced through them.

Though I'm not moving my hands but I'm controlling the swords, So the sensation of cutting gets transferred in my mind.

The soldiers coming at me all get purged and now I can finally concentrate on new enemies coming at me from front.

I jump to the interior of the spear that is pushed towards me and cuts the soldier diagonally from shoulder.

After killing him, I realise that after 10 seconds from landing, the impact I have given the soldiers by killing all the soldiers coming at me from all directions is massive.

The soldiers point their spears at me and are standing in the deadlock position which is just some metres away from me.

“This damn Devil—Uoooo!!”

After breaking the silence of some seconds, a single soldier extends his spear from right behind me.

But the 10 swords that have been released from Sword Arts are still in good condition and so deal with the attack that is coming from behind me in a flash.

I don't have to look back, just instruct a single sword to fly towards the soldier at my back.

The speed of my sword piercing through the soldier's chest is more than the speed of his spear coming towards my back.

Raising a voice of agony, one more soldier falls down.

As if the soldier got cold feet, they moved even further back and then encircle me.

“If you're not coming, then I'm coming.”

Having hatchet in my left hand, and the baton in right, while having 10 blackened swords protecting my back, I take a step forward.

Having the HaraRetsu that can cut clean even the defensive magic, while deploying Bullet Arts that can rapid-fire like a machine gun and having 10 swords from Sword Arts that cover my blind spots. I can easily fight against many enemies by alone.

I am a magician, So it's natural for me to do close-combats with the support of magic too.

It didn't work with Sariel, but it will work out with normal soldiers until I pass out by the lack of magical power.

“Don’t let them break!!”

For now, it's more than enough to hold down the enemy at front lines as an adventurer.

Trampling the corpses of soldiers, I deploy all the swords I have towards the soldiers remaining in my surroundings.

# Chapter 108 – Fairy Vs. Pegasus Knights (2)

The wings of a Pegasus did not just flap like a bird to fly.

By the laws of physics, a pair of wings was not enough to make a horse fly. Not to mention that it could even fly at high speeds.

But in this different world, it was a reality that the Pegasus could carry humans and move in mid air well enough to battle. This was because in this world the power known as magic exists.

If you were to say that Pegasus flew because of magic, then those wings were the magic, the device that allowed them to fly.

The Pegasus Knights had casted [Speed Boost] on the wings which allowed them to fly at even faster speeds.

“يُعمل من خلال سرعة القدم لتشغيل أسرع — Speed Boost”

As Estel and the others in the vanguard used their magic, the Pegasus's speed increased instantly and reached a level that could not be followed by normal men.

The fact that they had not gotten out of their formation even at such a high speed was the proof that these girls were extremely skilled at riding their Pegasus and had incredible teamwork as a squad.

The girls looked like a swarm of meteors in the sky and Lily who was releasing light looked like a star.

“Purple Lightning Assault – Line Charge!!”

Estel released her martial art against Lily who was inside her Oracle Field.

If that skill had hit a normal human, his whole upper half of the body would have been completely blown away. That was how high levelled martial skill it was.

The giant lance enveloped in lightning was launched with a tremendous force.

Estel's lightning and Lily's light clashed. The sound and light of countless sparks

flew.

After firing her attack at Lily, Estel decelerated as the speed boost ran out and clicked her tongue while on top of her Pegasus.

“It’s too hard, Damnit!”

Her attack could only graze the outer layer of the Oracle field and had come nowhere near Lily’s white soft skin.

Obviously, the lightning attack had been completely defended against. From behind Estel, another wave of lightning sounds came. The other Pegasus Knights also used the same skill one by one.

Probably only 3 or 4 of them hit including her own attack. Rest all had been evaded. Estel figured that out without even looking back.

A hard defence along with great evading ability was not something that could be easily dealt with. Not just Estel, but every Pegasus knight here was thinking the same thing.

After finishing their attacks, Estel’s group turned in the air and once again set their sights at Lily. They noticed that the part of the Oracle Field that had been scratched and slightly damaged, quickly regenerated and became as good as new.

“So she even has regenerative abilities? Damned monster—”

As if not allowing to even curse her, Lily fired beams of light. Seeing that, Estel quickly pulled the reins and took evasive actions.

She skilfully dodged the beam that held enough heat and power that getting hit by even one of those would not end with just a few burns.

Estel wasn’t the only one who was being targeted; everyone in her group was attacked by the beams without any discrimination. But only Estel could dodge all the beams. The rest of the knights were all shot countless times.

As expected of the armour that had been loaded with defensive magic, they didn’t become unable to fight just by getting hit from one or two beams as long as they guarded in time, but damage was clearly accumulated on their bodies.

(“Shit Shit! This one’s really dangerous. Even though we haven’t dealt any

damage to her, our side's already losing endurance.”)

Estel started to become impatient and flustered.

It's almost been 30 mins from the start of battle. In that time Nina, who was injured had left the front lines but, there were many among them who had taken lot of damage.

If the battle continued with the same pace, sooner or later they will start to become unable to battle. Some might even die.

“—Kyaaaaa!!”

From below her, a bone chilling scream came suddenly.

As she looked that way, one of the knights and her Pegasus had lost consciousness it seemed and were running unsteadily.

“Damnit! Someone support her!!”

Since the distance from her was too far from her, she quickly gave an order but Lily was faster to aim for the weakened ‘prey’.

Even among the countless of them, Lily could clearly discern which of them was the weakened one.

The attack fired by Lily towards the knight who could neither evade nor defend was not a beam but a ball of light.

Although slower than the beam, the ball of light could accurately track and pursue the target. At full strength, the Pegasus could have run away but now that the knight was on her limit of both willpower and stamina, she couldn't do so.

The 5 balls of light that were fired slipped through the knights that came to help her as if making fun of them.

The sound and flash of explosion spread all over. This time, no scream was heard. Just one animal fell from the sky towards the earth.

Lily had once again killed another one. Without even getting conceited due to it, she quickly took the next move.

The reason why Lily was able to attack right now was because it was just after

Estel's team had charged too much and given her a gap. After the girls had attacked, to stop Lily from chanting, a rain of attack magic was casted towards her.

Flan's team and Maty's team that had the job to obstruct Lily once again restarted their long range attack magics. And Lily, who had expected that, took highly irregular evasive maneuvers that could not be imitated by a Pegasus.

(“What should I do—if I have to resolve to sacrifice someone, now’s the time.”)

The most troublesome thing was Lily’s overwhelming maneuvering ability. If Pegasus could fly like birds then Lily was like a bee.

If it was a simple battle in a straight line, there wouldn’t be much difference but during the time of evasion, that incredible maneuvering made a lot of difference.

If the attack doesn’t hit, the damage will also remain 0. Although, evading like that requires high levels of concentration, there was still no sign of Lily looking fatigued yet.

(“There’s no other choice to stop her by holding her directly. Shit! It would be the same end as the vice-commander then! But there’s no other choice either --”)

Her thoughts were all over the place, and she couldn’t get an answer.

“God damn it! Is there no way to stop her! Darting around like that all the time damnit!!”

Although she shouted that through telepathy, none of the answers that came back were good.

“Are you saying that this late?”

“Nobody would think that we would be exhausted so much against one enemy right!?”

“That’s true. It’s frustrating but it’s true that we’ll be the ones at disadvantage if we attack from the front.”

“If there’s something we can still do, then this is the time to do it! Our magic

won't last forever!"

They still couldn't come up with a decisive plan.

".....no other choice. I'll stop that son of bitch fairy's movements myself."

"Son of a bitch? That fairy is a woman no matter how you look at it! Not to mention she's irritatingly beautiful as well!!"

"Do you think I fucking care about something like that!? Don't pour water on my decisive moment!!"

"Are you serious Estel? You won't get away if you touch that barrier of light, you know?"

"There's no other way. Also if we stay blocked here forever, then we won't be able to provide support to the troops on the ground. That way the whole plan would be destroyed."

Yes, in the first place, their mission was not to defeat Lily.

Their main objective was to attack and destroy the enemy defence line and allow the infantry to charge in successfully.

"Look, below the demons have finally come out as well. If we could attack from the air right now, their defences would instantly crumble."

Estel could imagine the acting vice commander hesitate for a bit on the other side of the transmission.

And, after a few seconds, Flan's reply came.

"I'll leave it to you Estel. In return, we'll cast Protect with all our power so come back alive."

"Of course. Who said I'm going to die?"

"Eh, no way, Estel you're really gonna do it?!"

"That's really dangerous!"

"What, you're worrying about me now?"

""No such thing!!""

Those sisters, Cami and Cathy, really never change. Estel thought in her mind.

“Listen, I’ll hold that son of a bitch down so you’ll be the ones to finish her off. Don’t fuck up.”

Although they hesitated, the sisters replied back with agreement.

The Pegasus Knights all resolved themselves, and looked towards Lily who was still calmly floating in the sky.

“Alright! Then here I ——“

The moment Estel was about to move, she saw a change in Lily.

Until now, Lily had been firing light beams and ball from inside the barrier but right now, small balls of light were appearing outside the barrier.

“Oi, It’s doing something, be careful!!”

The balls of light slowly started increasing in size and soon became almost double the size of the usual ones.

If they had power as per its looks, they had no idea if they could bear it if they got hit. Especially now that their stamina had almost run out.

(“Why? We didn’t even give it time to chant properly! Anyway, that’s really dangerous!”)

The moment Estel and the others prepared themselves to face Lily’s attack, the balls of light were shot out towards them.

The balls of light fired towards the knights that had scattered in all directions, was definitely slower than any of her previous attacks.

(“They’re slow? Do they have tracking ability? If they are this slow, then it would be better to shoot them down with magic———“)

The moment everyone else thought the same thing and decided to counter attack, the balls of light burst and released an immense light.

“Kuh—-“

Their eyes were blinded by the white light and they lost their vision.

For a second they thought they were caught in a huge blast but they felt no problem in their bodies.

“—Shit, it was only a distraction!!”

Recognising the true intent of that move, Estel quickly realized the next move.

—جدار الضوء الأبيض لمنع انتشار المرض Lux Defence.

—تبعد الاتصال Laser Heal.”

A defensive magic to protect her and a heal magic to restore her sight were activated consecutively.

When her vision returned, all that entered her eyes was the shield deployed by her and the clear blue sky.

There was no sign of an incoming attack.

“No, wait, where did that son of a bitch go?”

As she looked around, she could not find Lily or her light barrier.

“Can anyone see her?”

She communicated to her comrades.

The enemy in front of them suddenly disappeared. All of them were expecting a surprise attack from a blind spot.

“No, no signs of the enemy.”

“Can’t see her.”

“I see her! She’s falling towards the ground!!”

“Are you sure Maty?”

“Our team was located beneath it. I clearly saw her pass through as she went downwards!”

“I see. Alert the troops on the ground. We don’t know what it’ll do.”

As a result, Lily had gotten out from the encirclement of the Pegasus Knights and landed on the ground.

Since the enemy had disappeared from their sights, the Pegasus Knights quickly returned to their formation.

“—What’s going on? Nothing’s coming.”

For around 3 minutes, they were alert in the skies but as Estel had said, not a single beam of light came from the forest where Lily should have gone.

“Estel, it could be that some kind of magic of hers might have run out of effective time.”

Flan came beside Estel and said that.

“.....That’s not impossible. It could be that she was using an incredible enhancement magic. It could have been the evil god’s divine protection as well.”

“Yes. Especially, we are unclear regarding the divine protection received by demons in the first place. So we can’t guess their abilities either.”

“So basically, it ran away?”

In such a situation, normally anyone would think that.

“So it ran away but what should we do? Pursue it?”

“No, return to our mission. If it ran away then it’s favourable for us. We’ll attack the enemy’s defensive line just as originally planned.”

If it really had run away due to the effect of some magic running out then it really was the best chance to kill Lily.

Even Estel wanted to kill the monster that could face with the whole Pegasus Knights squad alone but it couldn’t be helped that it ran away inside a deep forest.

The Pegasus Knights could not follow there. That was the job for the soldiers on the ground.

As a result, they concluded that pursuing was impossible and then they need to achieve their original objective.

“We were held back for 30 mins. If we become too late then the soldiers on the ground might get scared and start retreating. Let’s hurry up!”

“Roger””

After giving the order, the Pegasus Knights began to move out.

And when they moved their sights towards the enemy defence line, an irregularity occurred inside that forest.

The trees and leaves in the forest began to dry up.

What that implied was understood by not just magicians but even those that couldn't use magic as well.

"Is it Life Drain?....."

[Life Drain] was a magic prohibited in the Republic and was labelled as a taboo.

It was a simple magic that could only absorb even the life force along with the magical energy, but its effect was tremendous.

If used carelessly, it could turn this land into a barren wasteland where not even weed would grow for the next 100 years. In the Arc continent, there was an area that had completely lost all living things due to it.

Leaving the effect on surroundings aside, it even had the danger of taking away the life force of allies as well. And not to mention that the user of [Life Drain] would usually start taking pleasure in stealing the life force of others and turn into a madman.

Thus it was a taboo, but this wasn't the Arc continent but the Pandora continent. A land ruled by demons. It was obvious that the rules of the human society wouldn't apply here.

Even if it was a taboo for humans, there was no need for demons to avoid using it.

"All units, be on guard! That thing is still coming after us!!"

As tension appeared among the Pegasus Knights once more, they once again realized that the threat of Lily had not yet left them.

# Chapter 109 – The Divine Protection of the Black Gods

Lily who was hidden inside the deep forest sneered at the Pegasus Knights for not choosing to pursue her.

“nfufu, even though you people had the chance to kill me right now.”

Of course, even if the knights had decided to pursue her, she would not have just gotten herself killed easily.

It was only a matter of probability. The Pegasus Knights had no chance of winning while they were in the air, but if they had pursued her now, they might have had at least a chance to win.

“Those guys guessed correctly that the effect of magic had run out, but, their choice on how to deal with it ended up being a mistake.”

The Pegasus Knights had already looked away from where Lily had gone and had concentrated completely on the battle below.

Considering that the enemy’s only airborne fighter had run away, that decision wasn’t exactly wrong either.

But,

“How foolish. Do they think that I won’t return back to the frontlines? Or could it be that they simply don’t even want to consider that possibility?”

According to Lily’s words, it was as if the girls simply wanted to believe that the effect of magic on Lily had ended.

And, Lily’s telepathy proved that it was actually half-correct as well.

To the girl Lily, it was easy to read opponents outer thoughts, who had not specifically casted Mind Protect, even during battle.

Lily clearly understood what the girls were thinking and how they reached their current conclusion.

“They thought that either my magic or the divine protection had run out, but,

it seems they never even considered that I have and could actually use both of them.”

The reason why Lily had used the flashy distraction to run away inside the forest was because the 30 min effect of the [Queen Beryl] had run out of time.

Since the [Queen Beryl] was not an artefact built specifically for the fairies only, her affinity with it was only normal.

That's why, there was a limit of 30mins. Any further than that would place immense burden on Lily.

“fufu, let me show you the divine protection of the Fairy Queen—“

But the [Divine Protection of the Fairy Queen] was different. It was a power for fairies made by the fairies. There was no burden on the body when using it. After all, she was only returning to her usual actual body only.

”[Life Drain]—منح جميع الطلاب قوة الحياة الطبيعية من روح امتصاص الدم“

Lily began her chant and at the same time brought out a scroll from her light-type spatial magic and spread it as she threw it in the air.

It was the most effective and high priced scroll in the village made only from the skin of a rank 4 monster. On it, the magic circle drawn by Lily was that of [Life Drain].

The scroll that activated on being infused with magical energy became particles of light and drew a magic circle with Lily as the centre.

And the effect of the magic displayed itself as the life force of every single living thing in the surrounding began to be absorbed forcefully.

“Now then, surrender your pitiful lives to me.”

The absorption of life force, with Lily as the centre, attacked every living thing inside the forest like a giant tornado.

The green plants withered, the insects crawling on the ground stopped moving, birds in the air fell down.

By the time the herbivore animals in the surrounding realized what was occurring and tried to run away, their bodies had already stopped moving and

lost their lives.

It was the same for the carnivorous hunting animals as well. The males became vigilant but soon fell down, and the females tried to protect their babies or eggs but lost their strength while embracing them.

Naturally, the children left also had no way to resist it either. The new born lives quickly lost the heat of their bodies. Even the small lives that had not even born and were still inside the eggs were absorbed as well.

It absorbed indiscriminately all and every life in the surroundings. That was the magic known as [Life Drain].

“un, this should help me last 20 mins at least.”

But for Lily, it was nothing more than a necessary step for preparation.

It was a necessary price to be paid, an offering, a sacrifice, to obtain the divine protection.

“O my pure, lovely and beautiful Queen—“

The origin of magical energy was the world itself. But the origin of the divine protection was the Gods. Then it needed to be drawn not from this world but from the world of Gods.

And it was the soul that was connected to the World where the Gods were enthroned.

All the magical energy within the 100m area around Lily had been offered to the Gods through the [Gate] inside Lily’s soul.

And as Lily’s body was filled with the divine protection, she shouted.

With gratitude and respect in her voice, she shouted the name of the God that granted her the divine protection.

“[Fairy Queen Iris]”

Lily who had once again attained her true form with the help of the Divine protection, flew towards the skies once again leaving behind only a pure white withered forest of death.

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Till now, Kurono had never seen Divine Protection.

Strictly speaking, all of Kurono's powers were the [Divine Protection of the Black Gods], and, all of Sariel's powers were the [Divine Protection of the White God].

But these two were unique cases. Kurono who had received it through experiments and Apostle who receive it suddenly one day out of nowhere, were the exception among exceptions.

Then, just what kind of person would normally receive the Divine Protection. The most universal answer would be a [Strong Person].

On the Pandora continent, various types of Divine protection not related with battles also existed but they would never be noticed. The only thing that could be clearly shown was the strength in battle. In this world of powerful demons where the rule of survival of the fittest existed, it was an obvious fact.

Usually whenever someone unusually strong appears, it means that he must possess some sort of Divine Protection.

Its effect could be allowing the use of a special magic, increase in physical strength, replenishment of magical energy, increase in elemental affinity, change in body shape, etc etc. There were truly too many types of it. And each and every one of them provided an immense amount of power to the person.

Conversely speaking, as long as one wasn't strong enough in the first place, he would never attain a divine protection.

That level would be around rank 3 as per adventurer levels. To be accurate, in the second half of rank 3, a power close enough to a rank 4.

Since Kurono had only done rank 1 quests after coming to the Pandora continent, it was normal that he had never been together with any strong adventurers that might possess DP.[T/N: I'm shortening Divine Protection to DP cause its irritating to write it all the time.]

But it was different now. The attack squad led by Kurono were all adventurers

of rank 3 and above.

Leaving the rank 4 werewolf aside, there were also adventurers of strong races like Orc, Lizardmen, Golem as well as Humans and Elves that possessed various martial art skills. They were of various types but all of them were warriors that possessed some sort of divine protection.

And so Kurono was able to see the overwhelming strength of DP users personally in this battle for the first time.

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“Oraaaaa!!”

Every time Vulcan’s giant sword [Fang sword – Evil Eater] was swung, lots of Crusaders were blown in the air.

All the soldiers that were hit instantly lost one or several of their limbs. Those who didn’t could be counted as very lucky, if you were to disregard the fact that they would still die sooner or later anyway.

“Come at me you fucking humans! I’m finally starting to get in the mood!”

Bearing the blood smeared sword on his shoulder, Vulcan, who smiled fearlessly towards the soldiers was the exact image of the fearsome demons told in the Republic.

But the soldiers will not fall back, they could not do so. After all, to kill, annihilate such creatures was their creed.

“Do not falter. Attack him together!!”

Under the order of the squad commander, the soldiers took formation with their spears and faced Vulcan.

“hehe, looks you guys ain’t scared yet. Nice, I should also become a little more serious now as well—”

Without yielding to the bloodlust and fighting spirit released by Vulcan, the soldiers attacked him with their spears.

The spears struck towards him. Even if it was a large sword, a spear would still have longer reach. In front of the wall of spears that provided no escape, Vulcan chanted the name of his God.

“The lone wind clad fang—[Orphan Wolf – Wolfegand]”

The power of the DP spread throughout his body in an instant as he became even calmer while facing that wall of spears.

“[Air Slash]!!!”

The power of wind dwelt inside the single horizontal slash made by the large sword.

Since Vulcan possessed perfect control over his sword, it didn’t eat the magical energy of the wind created.

The martial art [Air Slash] that was released was a slash that became much longer and reached many meters further and completely mowed down anything in front of it.

The spears that were only a few centimetres away from his body were instantly blown away and the soldiers had their body split apart in two and died while still believing that their attack had connected.

Vulcan who had killed numerous soldiers in a single attack shifted his sights and had already decided his next prey.

The one who lay in the sights of the brutal wolf was the squad commander dressed in equipment better than other soldiers. That equipment was not just for show. He really was stronger than other soldiers and possessed lower level magic as well as martial arts.

Vulcan thought that if 5 of such soldiers of his level had attacked him at once, he might have taken at least one injury.

“اللهم الجليد بيرس - O, G-God, grant me protection!”

Maybe because he saw numerous of his subordinates die from a single blow, his face showed an expression of fear, but he still hadn’t completely lost his fighting spirit.

He didn’t just chant a prayer to his God but also an attack magic was

activated.

(“You can’t kill me with just Ice-Sagita”)

Although Vulcan acknowledged that his opponent was brave enough to have not run away instantly, but that wasn’t enough to lessen the gap in their strengths.

(“Especially now that my DP is activated, I won’t even take any injuries.”)

The DP of [Orphan Wolf – Wolfegand], its power was wind.

Those who receive its DP have their body clad in wind, on attacking, the blade of wind will also apply force, the wind pressure would act as a defence to lessen the incoming damages and while running, strong winds will carry the body.

This effect that increases attack, defence, evasion, everything in a balance was extremely advantageous during such battles where one faced many opponents together.

Thus defending against or evading this [Ice Sagita] was easy. If he wanted, Vulcan could even just charge straight forward and cut him down instantly.

Vulcan finally decided his course of action and stepped forward with one of his legs that had become even lighter due to the wind, and agilely attacked like a strong gale.

“Ice Sagitaaaaaaaaahhh!!!”

“Huh?”

Vulcan stopped moving. Before his attack even reached, blood spewed from the squad commander’s neck and he fell down before he could even attack.

(“I didn’t even do anything though....”)

Vulcan was in doubt but he soon got his answer when he looked closely.

“Tch, stealing my prey isn’t allowed Su-san.”

“fufufu, it’s first come first served.”

Without any hesitation, the rank 4 adventurer Susu replied with a smile.

Clad in a grey robe, she was a woman with no outstanding features. She was so

mediocre that while walking through the streets, 9 out of 10 men would not even look back at her.

But holding the big dagger in a reverse grip that had cut through even chain mail, she was a rare existence that could calmly converse while smiling even with Vulcan who was releasing an immense amount of fighting spirit.

No, what was more fearsome was the fact that even Vulcan would not have realized that she was even there if he hadn't concentrated properly.

She hadn't used magic directly to conceal her presence. She was simply a master in concealing her own presence so much that she was like a pebble on the roadside that wouldn't even enter someone's thoughts.

Especially in such a scene of carnage where blood and blades flew around, it was almost impossible to meet her face to face like this.

"You're pretty fired up this time." (Vulcan)

"Well yeah. I need to show my coolness to my partner after all." (susu)

"Hah, looks you've taken an interest in that brat. I didn't think you'd have such a taste."

After he said that, he realized that Susu had already disappeared from his view.

Before he could even think of where she had gone, a voice came from behind him.

"I won't deny that I'm not interested in him but the way you put it is not good. You really lack delicacy."

("Damn I really couldn't see her this time at all. Along with stealth, is her movement speed even above Wolfegand? Is she seriously using her DP, this slime woman?")

He came to the conclusion that any more useless chatter would only bring unnecessary trouble and decided to apologise honestly.

"My bad. It's good if you two get along."

"Of course. Bye then. Let's work hard for a little while longer."

As he looked back, Susu had already disappeared.

Vulcan felt as if he had been talking to a phantom till now.

“To use [Shadow walker – Hanzoma]’s DP, she really isn’t a thief but an assassin.”

Well whatever. Which God’s skill they use is their own choice. There’s no need to speak uselessly about it was how Adventurers worked. Stopping his thoughts there, he turned towards the soldiers that were crossing the river and coming here.

“For now, I just need to have as much fun as I can!!”

Swearing that he won’t let his prey be stolen this time, Vulcan raised his large sword and joyfully rushed towards the enemy group.

Vulcan’s grey fur that were clad in the winds as he ran around like a storm killing his enemies was truly the true image of a person who had received the DP of the [Orphan Wolf – Wolfegand].

# Chapter 110 – Fairy Vs Pegasus Knights (3)

Lily who had regained her strength with the help of the DP of [Fairy Queen – Iris] once again entered into battle in mid air against the Pegasus Knights who were getting more and more fatigued.

“—[Ignis Charge]!”

Camy released a charging attack. But the lance of flames was still unable to pierce through Lily’s Oracle Shield.

“—[Ice Charge]!”

After her, Cathy attacked Lily with an ice type martial art skill.

The strength of the skill was average, but on using fire and ice type skills on the same target consecutively, it could even smash through an iron door due to thermal expansion.

But, Lily’s Oracle shield kept on shining the same as usual as if ignoring the laws of physics.

“Aghn, I’ve had enough!”

“Nothing’s working at aall!!!”

The complaint made by two came to Estel’s ears through the transmission.

“Tch, so it’s the same as before.”

This should be a battle where the enemy can’t retreat either. So she thought that maybe Lily was acting strong and her power might have fallen but it seems she was wrong.

Even though they had used up quite a lot of energy and stamina, the enemy was still full of magical energy.

“No, hasn’t she gotten even stronger than before.”

She remembered that previously, such charging attacks had at least created some slight cracks on the shield.

She had no way of knowing whether this was because they had gotten tired, or

the enemy had gotten stronger, or was it due to both.

“No other choice. Remember what I had said some time ago?”

Estel would stop her Lily’s movements by directly going close and Cathy and Camy would use that chance to deal the finishing blow.

It was extremely dangerous but she could not think of any other way, and neither did they have the time to think up a plan leisurely either.

“—ufufu, it’s useless.”

Estel clearly heard that voice inside her head.

The source was the same transmission method, but this wasn’t the voice of a comrade. This voice was,

“Yo, You bitch!!”

“Such a shabby telepathy technique. I was easily able to cut into it.”

It was certainly the voice of Lily who was in front of them.

From Estel’s pov, she could still see Lily dodging the attacks of Flan’s squad and Maty’s squad even now.

But, the voice that came over from the transmission was elegant and relaxed, as if she was talking over a cup of tea.

“This fucking son of a bitch!! Underestimating us!! I’ll kill you with my lance right now!!”

“Weren’t those stupid sisters supposed to deal the finishing blow to me? To forget the plan you made yourself, is your mind turning hazy already? Oh my, humans really do grow old too quickly.”

Estel realized,

(“This is bad, she had been completely monitoring our transmissions!!?”)

Even if it was a simple plan, if the enemy knew about it, it’ll make a huge difference.

“Sh, shit.....”

Estel broke into cold sweat.

Whether Lily knew that or not, she kept on talking in the same way.

“fufu, you have a bad mouth but to sacrifice yourself for your comrades, you have a pretty cute side as well.”

“Stop messing around! Don’t speak like you know everything!!”

No magical energy was flowing inside the transmission device. Her voice shouldn’t have been transmitted nor received, but, the voice from the speaker still didn’t stop.

“But don’t you have some lingering regrets remaining before sacrificing yourself? I know it, I know it very well. You even have someone you love hidden deep inside your heart.”

“St, stop.”

She realized that her own voice had started shivering.

(“Calm down. It must be a bluff. Seeing that I’m a woman, she’s just saying things randomly!”)

“Um, the name of your loved one is—“

“Stooppp!!!”

The name Lily took was the same as the person that appeared inside Estel’s mind.

(“Wh, wh, why? Why does she know?.....”)

Without minding the dumbfounded Estel, Lily continued speaking.

“My oh my! He really is a cute guy with brown hair and big round eyes. He’s like a cute little pup, makes you want to tease him.”(lily)

(“I see, she can look inside a person’s head and thoughts even at such a distance and so accurately.....What the hell? She didn’t intercept our transmissions, she has been reading our thoughts from the very start!”)

As Lily accurately described Estel’s loved one, Estel finally realized the precision of Lily’s telepathic abilities.

At the same time, having her thoughts and heart completely broken into left Estel extremely discomforted.

“That’s not good. You haven’t even confessed to him and you want to die here?”

“Shut up!! Be silent!!!”

“He’s a medic, so he should be nearby right? You can quickly go and confess to him right now.”

“Shut up!!”

“C’mon if you don’t do so quickly, he might die first, you know?”

“Shut the fuck up!!!”

“It took you so much time to finally get along with him, so you can’t die until you make him yours.”

“I said shut up already!!!”

Estel shouted as Lily sneered and ridiculed her.

“ahahahaha, you really are cute, to get so shaken just by talking about the man you like—“

This woman on the other side of the transmission was clearly speaking words meant to shake her. And Estel was aware that she really was completely shaken and disturbed right now.

Estel steadied herself and made herself ready to face the next scary words that woman might speak to her.

“Evade it, Estel!!!”

She couldn’t recognise whose voice it was in that instant. All she knew was that a white beam was approaching her from the front.

And the source of this white beam was the finger of the being that flew inverted in mid air inside the oracle shield.

Just how long had she been targeted. To have not sensed an attack filled with so much killing intent, this would have never happened if it was the usual Estel.

It was really simple. She had been simply shaken and mislead by Lily’s words and was caught off guard.

(“Damn, I must avoid—“)

Pegasus's white wings fluttered in mid air.

“Gaaaaaaahhhh!!!”

Estel screamed due to the pain and heat. An unbelievable level of pain ran through her whole body.

Her mind had been ravaged by intense pain, but she still barely had enough capacity to think calmly.

(“—I am still alive. I feel like I died but I'm not dead yet!!”)

The moment she realized that she hadn't died, she also realized that her Pegasus had started falling.

The white wings that had been burned and destroyed largely came in her view. It was not just her, but even her Pegasus had taken damage. That too at the wings.

But it wasn't a fatal blow.

“Show some spirit dammit!! A pegasus can't fall like this, c'mon!!!”

Spreading its wings once more, the Pegasus somehow maintained its balance in mid air once again.

Before she realized, she was inside the triangle formation made by Flan and her two subordinates.

It took some time before she realized that they were here to protect Estel from Lily's attacks.

“—تتبع الانتعاش—Laser Heal.””

Two healing magics flew towards her. But the pain only became a slight lesser. It wasn't enough to heal her wounds.

“.....My bad, I was caught off guard.”

Just saying that, Estel drank the potion prepared by her in advance.

It was a high grade article, but not even half of her wounds had healed.

She brought out one more and sprinkled it over the damaged wings of the

Pegasus.

This one also had the same effective strength as the one used by Estel but the wounds weren't shallow enough to be healed by just this.

"Estel, let's retreat."

Estel was unable to answer to Flan's proposal instantly. She once again looked towards her wounds.

("Shit! I shouldn't have looked.")

Her left hand had the deepest wounds. She might have reflexively used her hand to protect her body from Lily's attacks.

The plate armour with defensive magic had been completely burned away and the attack had deeply wounded her.

The wound started from her left hand and reached towards her shoulder, stopping just barely before it reached her neck.

If it had reached a few centimetres more, her head would have been separated from her body, no doubt.

It seems, Lily's beam attack had mowed down the Pegasus's left wing along with Estel from the left side.

("It's not that I can't fight, but, I won't be able to stop that bitch's movement properly, but still.....")

"Don't joke. I can still fight."(estel)

"That's not it. Look Estel, the ground forces have started retreating."

"What!?"

As she looked downwards, she saw the soldiers moving in the exact opposite direction as before.

But, considering the mistakes made by them, she wasn't in a position to abuse the soldiers either.

".....Let's retreat."

""Roger.""

After hearing the response, Estel looked towards Lily who was still not moving and floated in mid-air.

It wasn't a distance where she could have seen the expression on Lily's face, but she knew that Lily was laughing right now.

"Bye. After you return, have your beloved one to heal your body and heart Estel."

Lily, who spoke that through the transmission, flew back towards Alsace without pursuing the Pegasus Knights.

"Goddamnit, making fun of me till the very end....."

As Estel cursed her, only Lily's smiling face appeared inside her head. She wondered whether that was also due to Lily.

# Chapter 111 – Flame Rampart

The 24 man assault party was fighting by the riverbank by using martial arts, magic, and DP and had yet to suffer a single casualty.

But the number of enemies crossing over the river was in hundreds. Even if they had been fighting with the vigour of a mighty warrior able to match countless, it was still impossible to stop all of the enemy soldiers to not let them pass through.

Passing through the rain of arrows and magic, also making through the blades of the assault party, the infantry soldiers had finally reached Alsace village's protective wall.

But still, the soldiers had been yet unable to cross through this thin, weak looking fence of wood.

“Wh, what’s with these iron wires—“

The soldiers stepped onto the barbed wires without any hesitation.

And the next moment they regretted it. This thorn filled wires of iron pierced through and coiled around their legs giving great pain, and also slowed down their advance.

“Uraa! Go back to your homes you damned humans!!”

The adventurers on the other side of the fence who stood there to intercept the unmoving soldiers, shouted and cursed at them as well.

This squad was made with adventurers of an average of rank 2 and were weaker comparatively, but since they had been working as an adventurer for the past many years, they were still skilled warriors from the pov of the soldiers.

The spears that stabbed from the inner side of the fence expertly killed the soldiers one by one that had been trapped in the barbed wires.

But on the other hand, the Crusaders still advanced with their big numbers and soon a lot of soldiers had joined the fight in front of the protective wall.

“Nee-san, isn’t this starting to get more and more dangerous!?”

The members of the [Three hunting Princess] that were fighting on the frontlines like brave Valkyries. Out of them, the third sister Hanna, raised her voice.

“Calm down. We’re still fine. An Elf would not panic in any condition. Laura, are the preparations done?”

“Yes, nee-san.”

Hanna had already switched to a spear and had been killing the soldiers that had been trying to cross over from the past 5 mins.

On the other hand, the eldest Irina, and the second sister Laura had nocked an even bigger lightning arrow with their Sylphlight.

The enemy had been advancing in front of them and it was a situation where they could hit even if they fired with their eyes closed. But, the enemy was not in their sight right now.

“Everyone, get away from the fence!”

On Irina’s voice, Hanna and the rest of the adventurers took one step back from the fence.

Seeing that chance, all the soldiers clung to the fence and tried to climb over.

“”[Thunder Emission – Line Blast]!!””

A lower grade wide range lightning magic was fired from the bow. It was impossible to attack every enemy with just two of such attacks.

But, iron wires had been spread around their legs. The fence was also wrapped with iron wires as well.

The lightning fired from the Wind Lightning Bow – Sylphlight was first absorbed by the barbed wires coiled around the fence and quickly the lightning circulated to all the barbed wires spread around.

At this moment, the barbed wire, turned into electrically charged barbed wires.

The soldiers clinging to the fence suddenly stopped moving like insects that had pesticide thrown on them, and the soldiers that had their legs trapped in the

barbed wire were electrocuted and lost the strength to fight.

“See, we’re still fine.”(irina)

“Eh, right.....”(hanna)

Irina’s face showed calmness. Hanna understood the difference in the level of tension between her and her elder sister.

“Everyone get ready! More of them are coming!”

The soldiers directly in front of the protective wall had been wiped out but once again more of the enemies appeared.

They didn’t have the time to get happy just by killing one wave of enemies. The adventurers psyched themselves once more and faced the enemy.

“Nee-san, the next one might not work this well.”

Laura’s cool voice came to Irina.

“Why so? The fence is still in perfect shape.”

“That’s not it. There are too many corpses.”

Laura pointed towards the other side of the fence. There a lot of corpses and wounded soldiers were lying on the ground.

It was obvious, but they were lying not on the ground but on the barbed wires.

“Oh no, they’d use the corpses as a foothold—”

As Irina realized it, it also became a reality.

The incoming Crusaders used the corpses and even those who were still breathing comrades as a footing without hesitation and moved towards the protective wall without getting caught in the barbed wires.

“You bastards! You would go as far as to even step on your own comrades!”

One of the adventurers shouted.

For adventurers who stressed on teamwork, the actions of the Crusaders who, let alone the corpses of their comrades, without helping even those who were alive and stepped on them were unforgivable.

But for the soldiers, it was a natural action to take. Even on earth, using the

bodies of their comrades to cross barbed wire was a tactic that was much used.

Though only Kurono knew about that fact among the adventurers, for the Crusaders it was simply using a convenient footing that they found.

“Certainly, this might get troublesome. Like this, even if we used the lightning attack again, it won’t work much.”(irina)

From here on out, they had no choice but to stop the enemy with pure strength.

Resolving for that, Irina and Laura drew their weapons and faced their enemies with even more vigour, at that moment,

“I’m back!!”

With such a yell, the crusaders heard the unforgettable explosive sound of the Devil.

With a *Giyarigiyari* sound, with black muzzle flashes, black bullets that pierced through even armour flew here.

“I have made you wait everyone! The machine gun is back again!!”

Once again, the surekill storm of bullets attacked the Crusaders.

Mozrun held the machinegun’s grip and fired towards the Crusaders attacking the protective wall.

“fuu, it sure came back at a great time.”

Irino showed a somewhat relaxed expression and looked back to give orders.

“Then, let’s go and meet Kurono-san and the others.”(Fiona)

The one who stood there was the witch dressed in black clothes different from Kurono, Fiona.

“Then, I’ll be counting on you.”(irina)

“Yes, leave it to me.”

Fiona brought out a large horn from inside her trademark witch’s hat.

Putting her small lips on the horn, she blew air into it.

*BUOOOOOONN*

A sound loud enough to drown the shouts of the soldiers and the shooting of the machinegun resounded.

It was certainly loud enough to even reach the ears of Kurono and the rest of the assault party beyond the protective wall.

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(POV to kurono)

“It’s the signal of the horn! Everyone fall back!!”

As the sound of the horn came to my ears, I gave the order to retreat.

Though I say so, everyone should have heard it so they really should not need my orders anyway.

“Uraaa! Come at mee!!”

Among the blood smeared soldiers, it seems there was one who had even forgotten the signal and kept on fighting.

I’m talking about you, Vulcan.

“Magic Bullet Arts.”

I sent a bullet to his temporal region. It is one of those soft ones that I used in the duel.

“Ouch! What Kurono?! Don’t interfere damnit!”

2 soldiers who got caught in his swing were blown away as he turned back with angry words.

“Retreat. Did you not hear the horn?”

“Aa, yeah, such a signal was there as well.”

You, if I had not said anything, how long were you going to fight? Till you died?

“Black Smoke.”

For the time being I released a smoke screen as I took the muscle headed,

fighting crazed werewolf with me back to the village to retreat.

With the appearance of the black smoke all over the place, the soldiers seemed on guard thinking it might be poison. But unfortunately this smoke had no attacking abilities. It's just a smokescreen.

It's a magic of which I have memories of having used first against Sariel to run away from her. But since there is no attack that might hit me accurately even with this smoke, it is a much more comfortable situation than that time.

"As expected of a skilled adventurer, even the skill to retreat is flashy."

All those who had been encircled by the soldiers and were currently in melee used this chance to slip through the gaps and started retreating.

But still, there is no other way to stop the enemy here on these open plains. As expected, the soldiers chased after us who were falling back.

"The demons are retreating!"

"After them!"

Since we started to retreat, the Crusaders became livelier.

If we kept on moving backwards like this directly towards the gate, they'll also enter through the gate when we enter.

Somewhere, we needed to hold them off to gain enough time for us to get back inside.

But, that was not my job.

"Move it oraa!!"

Vulcan began to take down the enemies that had slipped through us and had reached the protective wall.

The soldiers who had ended up as a victim of a pincer attack were easily driven out under the blades of the assault party. Yeah, first of all we need to get rid of the enemies near the gate.

The 24 people of the assault party gathered in front of the barbed wires that had been laid down just after we had departed from here.

All that's left is to wait for them to meet us.

“Welcome back Kurono-san.”

Fiona’s words came to ears at the same time as the gate opened.

“Yeah, I’m back.”

Fiona stood at the gate with her usual sleepy expression. From her both sides, two adventurers holding scissors or rather nipper like items with a long handle appeared.

The item they held was not a weapon. It was an item required to remove the barbed wire.

Thanks to practicing countless times, with quick movements, the barbed wire in front of the gate was cleared out and created a path.

But in that time, I also saw countless soldiers who wanted to use this chance to enter in through the gate we opened as well.

“Then, I’m counting on you.”(kurono)

“Yes--“(Fiona)

Without even minding the soldiers approaching from behind, we calmly entered through the gate while listen to Fiona’s chant.

”لَهُبُ النَّارِ إِيقَافُ جَدَارِ حَاجِزٍ لِمَنْعِمِ الشَّابِتِ لَهُبُ هِيروشِيٍّ ثَلَاثَاءٍ كِيكُوٍّ“

I, who was not a normal magician, did not know what that chant meant, but, I knew what magic was about to be activated.

It was the same line of magic that saved me back at Irz.

I had seen a magic that looked like an advanced grade giant wall of flame but the magic she was about to use now to stop the enemy was, this time, truly the advanced level defensive magic.

“—[Ignis Rampart Defence]”

It was truly an eruption.

A shield of fire. A wall of flame. Such an expression would not fit it. A large mountain of red burning flames possessing extreme temperature had risen up here.

Just as how magma of a volcano could not be stopped no matter how many humans jump in, this [Ignis Rampart Defence] had clearly stopped the countless troops.

“.....amazing.”(kurono)

“Thank you very much.”(Fiona)

I wasn't the only one thinking that. The adventurers as well as the Crusaders who were trying to attack had been captivated by it.

And, without losing a single person from the 24 man assault party, everyone had safely entered back in the village and the gates had been closed once more.

And at the same time the flame rampart swayed like a mirage, and the next moment, it disappeared completely as if it was just an illusion.

# Chapter 112 – A Temporary Retreat

After returning back through the gate, I along with Mossan, once again attacked the enemy with our crossfire.

Quite a lot of them had come close to the gate but after the crossfiring restarted, we were able to push them back away once again.

I once again realized the astounding killing ability of the crossfire once again but, if the machinegun stopped again, we'll have to leave through the gate once more.

This time we had returned without losing a single person but the on the second time, casualties will definitely arise.

On top of that, even I can't continue to fire bullet arts infinitely either.

Although we still had margin, if we kept on continuing like this and the enemy continues to advance in the same pace, it's doubtful whether we'll be able to hold them off for even today.

But that thought ended up as a needless anxiety.

“.....the enemy is falling back.”

After we started the crossfire for the second time, we pushed back the enemy soldiers that had come close to the protective wall, and then soon after that, the enemies started to retreat one by one.

“Oi Kurono, they’re escaping but is it fine to not pursue them?”

Vulcan had thrown away his bow and was ready to jump out of the gate.

Well it is basic to go after the escaping enemy but.....

“We won’t pursue.”

“Alright, leave it to—wait what!?!?”

Calm down Vulcan and remove your hand from the handle of your sword.

“The enemy doesn’t have a machinegun but they have enough magicians to compensate for that on the other side of the shore. If we attacked, they’ll use

that chance to use wide range attacks to kill us even if that meant that they'll drag their own allies into it as well."

"You can't call yourself an Adventurer if you get scared of everything!"

"If their attack party tried to assault us continuously, we would not hold for even half the day. Even if that didn't happen, if we decide to pursue them right now, there will definitely be casualties. We barely have enough people here right now already. We can't lose more of our men anymore."

"Tch, can't help it then. If the leader says it I guess I'll have to listen to it. Oi, you bastards, return to your positions, don't think of throwing away your bows already! I'm bearing with it as well!!"

Other adventurers who wanted to pursue like Vulcan scattered away with displeased expressions.

"But, Kurono?"

"Hm?"

"Will the enemy come again?"

The Crusaders retreated back to the other shore, and the Pegasus Knights in the air have also seem to be disappeared.

The battle has completely stopped right now but this isn't a simple battle where this could be considered as a victory.

This is a defensive battle. We need to keep on protecting as long as the enemy keeps charging.

The enemy has only retreated for a short while.

"I don't when they'll come again but I'm sure that they have definitely not given up."

"I see, well our objective is to buy time. It is good for us if they decide to stay idle, right?"

"Yeah, but don't let your guard down, they might attack again soon as well. There's also a chance that they might plan a surprise attack or a night attack as well. Be prepared at all times."

Just what kinds of plan will the Crusaders come up with; I have no way of knowing.

So that we aren't taken by surprise, we'll have to keep watch 24/7.

We'll have to continue this situation where we won't know when the enemy will come attacking, for a whole week. Fatigue will definitely start piling up even if we don't enter into a direct battle.

"From here on out, it's a war of attrition—"

Just as the sun had begun to set, Norz who had been hit by the Ballista's attack finally woke up.

Seeing his surroundings, he quickly realized where he was.

This was the Crusader's encampment in the Vato village and currently he was inside one of the hurriedly constructed field hospitals.

Since most of the buildings had been destroyed by the scorched earth tactics used by the demons, they had used a comparatively large house in its place.

Norz was the only one on a bed, since he was the commander of the troops. The rest of the injured soldiers had been laid down on the floor directly with just a sheet.

"Urmu....."

As he raised his still painning body, one of the medics who realized it quickly came here.

While the medic and Norz exchanged info with each other, Sister Sylvia who had received the report also came here.

"How is your condition?"

"No problem, I can fight again soon enough."

If the demons tried a surprise attack right now, he had healed enough to have

picked his mace and gone back to the battlefield again.

Conversely speaking, if it wasn't an emergency situation, he wouldn't try and move his body right now though.

"It'll be troublesome if you died so easily. Please try to act a bit more prudently from now onwards."

"Guh.....Rather than that, what happened to the battle? We have occupied Alsace already, right?"

Hearing that, Sylvia gave a sigh and told him otherwise.

"No, the attack has been stopped and the troops have retreated from Alsace for the time being."

"Wh, What did you say!? What is that supposed to mean!?"

Norz raised his voice due to the unexpected reply but Sylvia was still calm since she had expected that reaction.

"The enemy defence line was much more solid than we had thought. If they had continued like that, there would have been only an increase in our damages and so the decision to retreat was made."

"Fuck that! Just how strong can that meagre protective wall be!? Do you know how many soldiers we—"

"Let us talk about the details after we leave this place. You'll have to listen to the reports made by the commanders of every squad as well."

After saying just that, Sylvia left the room.

"Impossible. Even though so many soldiers and even the Pegasus Knights had been mobilised, and we couldn't topple a single small village?....."

Norz without even realizing that Sylvia had already left, held his head in his arms as he tried to accept this incredible fact.

It was a battle in which he had absolute confidence but first, the complete heavy armoured knight squad was killed by the enemy, he himself had fallen to an enemy ballista attack, and to top it off, they had been unable to capture Alsace in the end.

This was completely unexpected. To have retreated from a small demon force while leading a large army, it was a massive failure both as a commander as well as a believer of the cross.

It was so bad that it might have been better to have been killed in action.

But Norz quickly rid himself of that thought. The ones he needed to curse were those despicable demons who used evil underhanded tactics.

He will definitely consign each and every demon in Alsace to oblivion.

Even if he has to face some kind of punishment after this battle, he will definitely deal with those demons before that happened.

Especially that black dressed magician called as the ‘Devil’ by the army, he would make sure to crucify that bastard till his body rotted to the core otherwise Norz wouldn’t feel satisfied.

“Damned demons.....although I had no intention to let any of you live in the first place, but don’t think you will die peacefully now.....”

# Chapter 113 – The Night on the 2nd of Hatsubi Month

Looks like the Crusader's have completely retreated, the white large army that attacked, is nowhere to be seen right now.

Only some small groups might be hiding on the opposite shore to observe us.

The main force should have returned back to Vato Village.

“We somehow made it today.”

I murmured and closed my eyes.

In truth I didn't want to sleep in the guild room, but Mossan persuaded me saying 'Relaxation is also an important part of work'.

To stop the advance of enemy soldiers the main fire powers like me who can use bullet arts and the machine gun shouldn't be away from the gates. In near future, either me or Mossan will have to stand near the gates as guards.

This guarding system is difficult for an ordinary human to pull off, but my body is a lot more tough than that of an ordinary human and Mossan is also near an demonic beast. We both can move without any rest for at least 1 week.

But like normal humans, many other races also can't do work without any rest. If they don't take any rest then it will only accumulate fatigue and will result in the decline of war potential.

Though I say that, the ones present here are adventurers. It won't be a problem if everyone takes rest by turns. They are happy that they will be able to rest on the bed inside guild rather than sleeping outdoors which is the inevitable process during quests.

Of course, there are not sufficient number of beds and more than half are sleeping on the floor.

“But, when the casualties increase, it won't remain the same.....”

The total number of casualties today were only 2. They died by having spear

struck into them when the enemy approached the defensive walls.

Seeing from the results, that just a group of 100 people stopped a large army with a really low loss percentage, from the standpoint of plan progressing it is unbelievably good.

Even if it's like this, it is not easy to break the defenses.

When an adventurer dies it is their own responsibility, but if they died under my commands, the level of responsibility is different.

Just by making a single mistake, others can die easily, that is something which is unbelievably fearful. I once again realized it after hearing the casualty report.

“—I will worry about it later, I have already made up my mind. I and everyone too will make sacrifices to buy time for completing the evacuation.”

Right now there is no time to worry about other things or thinking or even getting shocked by them.

The thing I need to think right now is only about are the tactics for the plan. How will the enemy move, attack and how will we take advantage over their actions.

There are a lot of things to think about. Furthermore, the data I've earned today is valuable. After all, this is the first head on collision battle against the Crusaders. I now know the number of people on the their side and how they fight.

“Just from the results it is superb, it's on the level of overwhelming victory. We have 2 casualties but it won't be strange for their side to have casualties exceeding 1000.”

There is healing magic present, so many injured will be revived in full power and be ready to face off tomorrow. But the people who have died are also in great numbers.

There is no doubt that we were able to reduce the military force of Crusaders exponentially.

However, I know that it's not enough for the collapse of the army. Even including the casualties and injured ones it won't even reach to one-third of their

whole force.

But still, there is no doubt that nothing went wrong from the trap of breaking the bridge to controlling the flow of battle, No, rather it went just too smoothly.

The battle is not over with this, looking at the long term we will have to retreat in near future and the enemy will not let us do that.

If the commander of the enemy has a lot of pride, then right now his face might be red from anger. After all, he couldn't siege a small village after mobilizing a large number of soldiers.

If we assume that, then it won't be strange for him to attack without taking the casualties into consideration.

It's simple but with 100% success rate. If he takes a step forward than my tactics then Alsace will fall into the hands of enemy.

"The time limit of continuing cross fire is really bad, but nothing can be done now. How will I be able to stop them during the cooling time.....In the end, it comes to crushing them with power, huh"

The solution is only all of us giving our all to stop them. I can't think of any plan in this short amount of time to overturn tables on them.

No, in the first place, the god gave us luck that we were able to continue the cross fire without any difficulties.

The Crusaders are already pretty tough. If they had charged without caring about the bullets fired from the machine gun, then our plan would've already been overturned.

Even if the protective walls are wrapped with barbed wires, but it will eventually break against them. It was only due to the fact that I have crossfire system, that I can say it is possible to defend Alsace Village for 1 week.

And today, the power of machine gun was demonstrated and to cover it up we showed our power and guts. It is a pretty good war progression.

"And for Lily to have actually stopped the whole Pegasus Knights alone.....this was the most lucky things that happened for us"

I did know that Lily was strong, but I never thought she would be able to stop

the whole Pegasus Knight Squad by herself.

And the work of dealing with the Pegasus Knights who escaped from Lily was of Simon and the archers stationed in the Guild.

As a matter of fact, I predicted that there will be a lot of casualties on our side during that time.

Fighting head on against a group of elite soldiers wearing first-class equipment and are attacking from mid-air. It won't end up with just some scratches for us.

But looking at the reports, the casualties in the guild were 0. The Pegasus Knights in the first place didn't come near them, after all Lily stopped them all by herself.

And during the time Lily was fighting, the ground forces started to retreat and so the Pegasus Knights retreated as well.

Though it happened in reality, it's difficult to really digest this fact. I never thought Lily in her true form would be this strong. In the first place today was the first time I saw her fighting in her true form.

How should I say it, but perhaps her true form is Dragon rather than a Fairy. No, really wouldn't it be better for Lily to be the leader in terms of power.....

"But even Lily has her limits. Next time the Pegasus Knights attack, they will come near the Guild."

After the enemy retreated, Lily came to me and spoke words of apology.

"Sorry, Kurono. I alone wasn't able to annihilate the whole Pegasus Knight Squad. I can only defeat some of them with this body before it reaches the time limit. I increased the time to fight using the divine protection, but it isn't something that will always work. Next time, I doubt I will be able to stop them all."

Saying that, Lily changed to her little girl form, and maybe because she over worked herself, she suddenly went to sleep.

I immediately took her to Guild and laid her on the bed. Most probably, she is right now recovering her stamina.

"Sigh Don't overwork yourself, Lily"

Though I am pretending to be calm. In truth my heart was aching like hell when I had to make Lily fight alone against the Pegasus Knights.

Or rather, was Lily thinking of really annihilating them. I believe I said just to stop their advance.....

"No good, it's not good to care much only about those close to me right now.....but in the end, I'm still worried."

For the time being, even if Pegasus Knights appear, with Liy here we can stop them completely for 30 minutes at most.

Today she defeated 7 people, and others too gained major or minor injuries. Next time will be on the same level.

Anyway, we will be able to reduce the war potential of Pegasus Knights thanks to Lily. We will have to make sacrifices, but it's not impossible to annihilate them too.

"If we can stop the Pegasus Knights. The problem left is the ground forces."

There is no other choice than to somehow pull it off, without any hope of getting reinforcements or without any plan to turn tables on them.

In truth, it was possible to kill of many soldiers thanks to the sniping from the guild gate and cover firing from inside the guild.

There numbers are great, so having arrows equipped with lightning being thrown at them is a good plan.

Even if the arrows don't hit, they will get the electric shock due to water.

"Simon also worked hard today"

Simons, reduced the numbers of magicians being deployed on the opposite shore.

She took only some advice from me and created a sniper rifle. She really is a girl to be feared with her unmatched accuracy in sniping.

The pair of Simon and Suu-san gave better results than what I had expected.

During the time of preparations, seeing them practicing sniping gave a feeling of a really good pair. There was no wrong choice in choosing Suu-san as a

spotter.

Now that I think about it, during the time I was fighting the heads of enemies around me were having their heads blown. It must be due to those two.

I can still understand about Simon, but Suu-san's fighting style to cut enemies head while hiding her presence is more fearful. According to Vulcan it is the power of her divine protection.....Rank 4 adventurers really are great.

"The adventurers are more powerful than I thought. We were able to protect the village today because everyone fought to their full extent."

I have no words to thank them, but thinking that their blood will be flown on the battlefield from now on, I can't help but feel dark anxiety inside my heart.

The ones to die next might be me, or the ones close to me.

The fact of losing everyone in Irz Village feels like a distant past already, but the anger, sadness and indescribable sense of loss I felt at that time, is still living in my heart.

I don't want to feel like that anymore. No, maybe I just want to run away from everything by forgetting everyone and everything about this place.

".....Not good, Don't think like that me. I now have the responsibility of others lives in my hands."

That's right, now there is no place to run, the battle has already begun.

# Chapter 114 – The night on the Second of Hatsubi Month (2)

The ones in charge of night guard are the beast men who can see in the night or the the thieves with skills or magic to see in the darkness.

Simon is the one specialised in long-distance attacks, but that is useless without any night-vision goggles.

He has the greatest concentration power but he lacks in the physical areas such as stamina and endurance. So he is taking a rest right now.

Simon can sleep for one whole night as the enemy is not going to attack in night, but after coming down from the rooftop he heads towards the room Kurono was sleeping in rather than his allotted room.

“Is Onii-san already asleep”

The resting time are the same for Simon and Kurono, but Kurono decided to again go towards the protective wall after taking a nap.

When Simons moves his line of sight towards the passage in front of Kurono’s bedroom.

“Ah, Lily-san.....”

Lily is small, but one can identify her thanks to her two pair of wings.

In the first place, the ones with the appearance of a child within the adventurer alliance are only Simon and Lily.

“Nh, What are you doing here?”

(Crap, her mind right now is that of her original self.....It would have been better if she had the child’s mind but this one is really scary.....)

It is already a common knowledge between the adventurer alliance about Lily’s dual personalities. Simon is also not an exception.

But rather he learnt it fast that Lily has dual personalities.

The face of Lily has already become a trauma for the lad named Simon. And that has been so since the day he met Kurono and Lily broke into his laboratory with an angry face.

“E-Erm nothing much.....”

Simon speaks evasive words while avoiding looking in her eyes. However, Lily already has a rough estimation for his actions without even using Telepathy.

But, there is obligation for her to show that she understands his actions.

“I see, Kurono is already sleeping so come later. Kurono is tired due to overworking, if you’re going to disturb his sleep, I won’t allow it.”

“Eh, then Lily-san is—”

“I’m not disturbing his sleep. I just came to sleep together with him.”

“I-Is that so”

(I heard that Lilu-san was sleeping in another room after coming back. So it means that she came to Onii-san’s room with some motive, right?)

Simon thinks that for what reason would Lily need to sleep together with Kurono.

“If you understand it, then return back to your room.”

“Uu. Yeah”

Simon thinks ‘There are always people who never give up’ while looking at Lily’s round and cute eyes full of will power.

“*Sigh*”

Simon after seeing off Lily, who went inside Kurono’s room, returned back.

“I had so much to talk.”

“—In other words, did you want to get praised by Kurono?”

“Aaah!? Susu-san how did you—”

Simon leaked out a loud voice due to a sudden intervention while he was talking to himself. Susu-san quickly covers his mouth before alarming others.

“If you don’t be quiet, Kurono won’t get angry, but Lily-san definitely will.”

Simon agrees to her words by nodding his head.

“It was unfortunate that she beat you in getting Kurono. Try to get praised a lot by Kurono tomorrow.”

“Eh. I don’t want that—I used the rifle and machine gun for the first time in a battle, so I wanted to ask how it was and.....”

“I’ll leave it at that”

“I’m saying the truth!!”

Simon objects with blushing cheeks. Seeing those actions anyone can know whether the words Susu said were wrong or right.

What Simon is saying is also right but it’s just an extra to cover his real intentions. He wants to hear ‘You did really good’ from Kurono. [ET: I’m writing it later, but many were speaking shit about Gender this and that now have fun with ‘He’ and ‘his’ relation with Kurono.]

“But still, when I saw you heading towards Kurono’s room. I thought you were going to sneak in with some ulterior motives.”

“Sneaking in, Eeeeh!? I-I won’t do that that ever, furthermore we both are men! Or rather do you see me as a person with that sort of hobby!”

At least, Kurono is still thinking about Simon as a girl, but for good or for bad, Simon has yet to realize it.

“But still, you’re already of the age to have a lover. And seeing you staring at Kurono with considerably lovely eyes, so I thought that maybe...you know”

“I’m a straight!”

He objects with all his energy. Surely he thinks highly of Kurono, but he doesn’t love Kurono like that at all.

“Hmm, who knows. We have the three hunting princesses and the magician Fiona and many girls with good face, but you don’t seem like you have any interest in them.”

“If I look at them with those eyes, won’t I be just a pervert.”

Simon accepts the fact that the girls Susu recommended are beautiful, but he

doesn't have any crooked aesthetic feelings.

"Then maybe Lily-san. That person does look beautiful and all, but I won't recommend her."

"Lily-san. Please, no way in hell!"

No matter how much beautiful she is, it's natural for anyone to not like her if they are glared at everytime they meet her.

"Hmm, then—Whoa, I got it"

"Please stop this topic right now, I'm no good with talk about love and all—"

"So you don't like the ones with small chests."

"Please listen to me....."

Simon drops her shoulders while sighing.

He looks down at his feet while thinking of a way to escape from this strange talk. Then looks up with an idea in his mind.

"How about this?"

Two mountains start swinging in front of Simon.

"E, Eeehhh!? How did you, how did your chests get larger!?"

"Oh, is it good to take that reaction as proof that I also have some hope?"

"I was just scared!"

Susu shows a somewhat nasty smile. Just some seconds before her chest was like the great plains, but now, as if they had gotten the blessings of Mother Earth, there are two large mountains present.

It's size is about the size of Simon's head. That mass which has already surpassed the level of large is bursting out of the thin shirt.

"What is this....."

"I'm a slime, so I keep my appearance as plain as possible, but if I want I can change the breasts and many more things just as you are seeing right now."

When she says that, her breasts swing in a seductive manner. Simon instinctively stares on them, a man cannot look away from a good thing.

“That aside, what do you think?”

“Eh, erm, what do you mean.....?”

Susu takes a forward-bent posture to look in Simon’s eyes as he is short in height. Just below her face, was the deep cleavage peeking out of her shirt.

Simon tries to avert his line of sight with his face completely red. Susu notices his innocent actions.

“What I mean is—”

But it is impossible for Simon, who is a noob in relationship experiences, to know what was going on Susu’s mind.

“—-This thing”

Before Simon knew it, his right hand was gripped and even before he could resist his hand touched the great mountains.

A soft and warm feeling reaches his palm. The only thing between is a thin shirt. The feeling alone is enough to shatter the calmness of a man into pieces.

“Waaaa!? S-Sorry, It’s already time for me to sleep! See you later!!”

However, looks like it was too much for Simon to handle.

Simon, in a panic, shakes Susu off and ran off with a really red face towards his room.

“Ahaha, he’s really cute—”

Susu sees Simon off with a smile,

“—I might get serious next time”

Saying that one phrase, Susu left from that place without making any sound.

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The Crusaders stationed in Vato Village, in truth they should have occupied Alsace Village by now.

But they were obstructed by the defensive line of demons hiding in Alsace Village. Anyhow, now they will have to stay in Vato Village for some time.

That is the same for the Cyprus mercenaries too. They were, as usual, at the campsite away from Vato Village.

Cyprus who is always lazy should have been in the bed with his women subordinates in night but he is currently within the forest that is a little away from the camp site.

Cyprus is leaning against a long tree. In his hand is a short wand.

At one glance it looks like a branch of a black tree, but on its surface white colored geometrical pattern is drawn all over and its ends are sharp like that of a spear.

“Handing me a fucking old version of ‘Aranea’, this is crap. It’s a hassle to activate its effects everyday, bastards!”

While saying complaints towards the person who handed the ‘Aranea’ to him he stabs the tip of the wand in the ground.

「مراقبة سرية لمعالجة الرقيق العنكيوت」

The wand reacts to Cyprus’s chant and the white geometrical pattern starts glowing.

Along with that the point where the wand is stabbed, the white pattern starts spreading on the ground.

The magic circle of 1 metre was created. It seems like a spider’s web.

“—Aranea”

The magic he used is Summon, the ones who came out are, just as the name says, Spider servant.

From inside the spider web, many black spiders crawl out as if coming out of water.

The sight of many large spiders gushing out from the ground will give an unpleasant feeling to any person instinctively.

But Cyprus, the summoner shows no expression as if saying that it is natural

and sees off the spiders.

The spiders disappear towards the other side of the dark forest in the blink of an eye. However, they all come back within 1 minute.

“.....Tsk, many have been reduced. this shitty product.”

Their appearance is the same as the ones he just summoned but they are the ones which were summoned yesterday. The work of ‘Aranea’ is observing. [ET: The spiders that came back were the ones he sent yesterday not the ones he summoned right now.]

The Cyprus mercenaries were ordered to remain in Vato Village and so he used this servant to observe the flow of fight.

“Demon this and that, these bastards came back after losing. Well then let’s see what happened there—”

Cyprus takes one spider on his hand.

And then the fragments of images and sounds emerge inside his mind.

To read from this demon, a skill is needed, but for Cyprus who summoned them it is really easy to read all the data recorded in them.

“—Whoa, Elf Girl discovered. This is good, this is what I was searching for.”

A picture of three elves with blond hair and blue eyes appears, the face of the three is really beautiful.

He then sees the scene of soldiers dying due to the lightning arrows fired by the three.

“Nh—but with just the demons, this much casualties—”

Cyprus was going to say some foolish phrase but while he is watching the video in his mind his face color changed.

At first he was showing off a smile while looking for his prey, but now all the emotions have gone from his face.

“—Hmm, I see, so that’s how it was”

Cyprus throws the spider in hand while murmuring.

The spider runs towards the magic circle and disappears like a frog jumping inside a pond.

"Interesting, now this is what i was waiting for. Hehe, it's like the fate is guiding me."

Just what might be giving him this much joy?

Cyprus returned back to the campsite in a good mood.

# Chapter 115 – Bombardment (1)

The night of the 2nd had ended. It was now the 3rd.

As the sun rose, beyond the Rone river shining with the light of the sun, the army of white once again appeared.

From the roof of the guild, where I stand, I can look even till the north west highway on the other shore of the river.

From what I have seen from here, it seems the Crusaders have advance as far the start of the river on the other shore, but since the forest is spread on the sides, I can't accurately estimate their numbers.

“They don't seem to be crossing through today.”

“Yeah, they might have made some other preparations.”

Beside me, Simon talked to me while holding the first ever sniper rifle of this world, [Yatagarasu].

Early morning, after hearing the report that the enemy had been sighted, I had quickly climbed to the highest point here but, I don't know what they're planning since they haven't advanced at all in the last 30mins.

If they were going to rush in like yesterday, I would have to get down from here and once again start firing my bullet arts in front of the protective wall.

But, since the enemy is not showing any movement, I have nothing to do but look at them like this. There's no merit for us to attack them first either.

It would be fine if we could just continue this glaring competition for the next whole week, but the enemy isn't that big of a fool either. If they aren't attacking from the front, that means they must have some other plans.

“But it's quite cramped to have 3 people here, right?”

Su-san complained nonchalantly suddenly.

Certainly, the pedestal created for Simon for sniping isn't very big.

To have 1 child and 2 adults together is certainly over the capacity.

“Sorry, but this place is the best vantage point here.”

Since the enemy is in front of us, I need to keep an eye on them after all.

“I don’t really mind it. As long I and Simon have enough space to huddle together.”(susu)

“No, I mind that.....please move away a bit.”(simon)

Su-san held Simon from behind in a hug.

Su-san, whose breasts became big for some reason, was resting them on Simon’s head magnificently.

“You two really get along well.”(kurono)

Is the so called Girl’s love (T/N:yuri, lesbo) everyone talked about?

“fufun, you jealous?”(susu)

“A little.”(kurono)

“If you really think that then help me, Onii-san!!”(simon)

Simon complained with tears in her eyes. Yup, this alchemist is cute today as well.

While being calmed down by cuteness that was a bit different from Lily’s, I ate my breakfast bread and drank some milk with the other hand.

This mysterious milk taken from an animal that might be some kind of cow or goat tastes a little different, but I have already gotten used to it so it feels tasty as usual.

While I was emptying the milk container in a single gulp,

“By the way, Kurono didn’t even look at my bigger breasts even once. Are you gay?”(susu)

*BUHOOOO!!*

The white milk shined from the sun rays, of course, I was the one who spat it all out.

“Uaah!? Onii-san that’s dirty!!”

“Buha, geho, what the hell are you saying suddenly!?!?”(kurono)

I glared at Su-san who just dropped a bombshell level of comment while I was enjoying my milk.

“No, I mean, human males tend to chase after big breasts and since you didn’t do something like that I thought that it might be so——”(susu)

“Eh, is that true Onii-san!?”

“Don’t believe her Simon, it’s just a misunderstanding. I’m perfectly straight.”

“fumu, I heard the same thing yesterday as well.”(susu)

“Haa?”

“No, don’t mind it.”(susu)

Fufufu, Su-san laughed boldly. How can you be horsing around when the enemy is in front of you!

“So what’s it like seriously?”(susu)

“I said I’m straight! Of course I’ll prefer a cute girl over a guy. Sheesh, if you think every man likes big breasts then you’re gravely mistaken.”

“Then, are you a Lolicon?”(susu)

“Of course not.”(kurono)

“There was the case with Lily so I thought that this might actually be more credible.”(susu)

“.....That’s true.”(Simon)

“Don’t agree with her Simon. Or rather, stop putting the label of a weird fetish on me already.”

Do you have some kind of grudge against me Su-san?

“fumu, then I won’t pursue this topic any further.”

Do you really have no interest in big boobs? She looked at me with gaze that implied that question as she wrapped her huge breasts around Simon’s head.

That’s, really something that most men would never forget.

“haa, Whenever I look at big breasts, I end up remembering her.....”

My mom. She really had a huge chest. Since I had seen them from when I was a child, I had already lost any interest in them by the time I grew up.

I wonder whether that's a good thing or a bad one. Well, since I never really looked at people with big breasts with impolite eyes due to that, it must have been a good thing.

"Ah, Onii-san's eyes have become distant suddenly."

"fuumu, it seems our leader is a really stoic man."

For the time being, it's all good since the topic ended with the fact that I have no abnormal sexual fetish. I drank the remaining milk while thinking that.

But still, due to thinking about my home, I ended up feeling like eating white rice suddenly.

Here, the main grain is wheat so bread is the staple food. I know, after going to Spada, I'll search for some rice, yeah let's do that.

While I was indulging myself in nostalgia, at that moment,

"Oh no, it's an attack!"

Just as Su-san shouted, I heard the start of chanting.

"What the hell is that!?"

From the forest, pillars of flame rose, No, those are balls of flames. They are falling towards here in a parabola while leaving a trail of smoke and flames behind them.

A total of 5 of them.

"Lie down, Simon! منع هiroshi كيكو  
الصلب الجليد الباردة [Ice]—ترجميد Armour  
Shield]!"

Su-san covered Simon with her whole body and above her, an intermediate level defensive ice magic deployed to protect them.

"[Black Shield]!"(kurono)

I also deployed a shield to protect myself for the time being.

The instant the black shield was deployed,

*DODODODOO!!*

Shock waves and heat waves ran through.

One of the fire balls had unfortunately hit the roof of the building.

“Is everyone alright!?”(kurono)

“We are, but—“(susu)

Without even listening to her words, I saw the archers that were standing on the roof as many of them had their bodies swallowed in flames.

“Shit!”

I, who could only use black magic, had no efficient way to extinguish the flames.

As I thought what to do, Su-san and the other safe adventurers moved first.

They quickly used ice and water type magics to extinguish the flames on those who were burning.

“Oi, you alright?”

Jumping down from the pedestal, I ran towards the adventurers.

“haahaa, we’re alive somehow.”

Even though their hair ends had been burned off, one of the beast type adventurers answered with a smile.

Others who had been burnt raised cries of pain and agony sometimes but were already using potions to heal themselves.

Seriously, all these adventurers are really tough. Thanks to that, everyone was still calm.

“I didn’t think they’ll use a bombardment like that. But its power doesn’t seem to be very high.”

The place where the fireball had landed felt a bit scorched but since I had already blackened the whole building, it really was difficult to distinguish it much.

If it had been as it was originally, that is, made of wood, it would have caught fire but with just this level of attack the guild now would never catch fire.

“For the time being, retreat back inside the guild! Su-san, I leave the treatment of the injured and evacuation to you. I’m going down.”(kurono)

“Roger that.”(susu)

I was heading towards the protective wall. There were more adventurers there to act as guards. I need to quickly tell them to go back inside the guild as well.

“Oi, another round is coming!!”

From behind, someone’s voice came, and once again another fireball appeared.

“Shit! To use bombarding attacks from such a long range---[Anchor Hand].”

I didn’t even have the time to normally go down the steps. The best and shortest way was to jump down directly from the roof.

It was the improved version of the [anchor] I used back at Deadalus to climb the castle walls. It looks pretty much the same as that time but it had become able to change its shape freely like a tentacle allowing for even more complicated maneuvers.

The black wire-like tentacles that stretched out of both my hands fixed themselves on the railing of the roof and I threw myself in the air.

At the same time, another fireball hit the roof and exploded.

But the heat waves and shock waves didn’t reach me as I was already running vertically on the walls of the guild.

# Chapter 116 – Bombardment (2)

“Take shelter inside the guild for the time being! Hurry up!”

I gave the orders to take shelter in a loud voice after reaching the protective wall.

These guys weren’t villagers but adventurers. They calmly followed my orders even under this rain of fireballs.

“Oi, what the hell is this rain of flames? It’s really annoying.”

Vulcan had raised his large sword overhead as an umbrella and made a really irritated face.

Many of the fireballs dropped near Vulcan but they were quickly absorbed by his sword in no time.

[Evil Eater] really is an amazing ability. With such an item I can understand why Vulcan is so composed.

“They’re firing these little things from afar. Should I go all out and take care of them right now?”(Vulcan)

“No, I want to avoid attacking as much as I can.”

“Then what should we do? Should we just sit here while they shoot at us?”

The fireballs only seem to be getting even more vigorous.

Each and every one of them has an effect of spreading fire in a radius of few meters from the landing point but its explosiveness is not really great.

Now then, I wonder if this is the maximum power of this long ranged attack or are they holding back the power? If they could carpet bomb with an explosiveness of TNT of 10 kilotons, even our remains will be destroyed.

No, since they had retreated yesterday, I doubt they think that our defensive line is the same as yesterday, then, they don’t have any reason to hold back during their second attack.

“We have no choice but to bear with this. They’re trying to lure us

out."(kurono)

"Haa?"

"Vulcan, you asked me to attack instantly right? Then basically, anyone would want to do that."

"Well of course. Anyone who stays silent even when he's being made fun of like this is just a coward."

"That's right. They have brought their army because they expect us to come out and attack. That army isn't there for protecting the magicians who are doing the bombardment. I'm sure they are waiting on the other side of the river to take revenge for yesterday."

If we were to attack by crossing the river, then this time we'll be the ones who'd get attacked while crossing the river. Also, they should have more archers and magicians than us as well. Even without a machinegun, they could easily repel us 100 adventurers.

".....Then, we have no choice but stay cooped up inside the guild, is that it?"

"Yeah. I should probably send out some scouts but yes that's what we'll have to do."

Looking at the landing point of the fireballs, they must be hidden pretty close to the river. We might be able to take out the magicians with a well planned surprise attack, but the risk is quite high.

"Is that fine? The enemy might not come charging like yesterday you know?"(Vulcan)

"Look, many of the fireballs are falling near the river as well. They can't even accurately aim. If they came charging, then they'll have to stop this bombardment as well."

If they don't they'll hit quite a lot of their allies as well. I think even those Crusaders would want to avoid something like that.

"If only the soldiers come charging, I and Mossan can hold them off quickly."(kurono)

"Tch, can't be helped then."

With a reluctant Vulcan, I also took refuge inside the guild.

...

Lily came up to meet me as I entered the guild.

“Kurono! Are you alright!?”

“n, you’re awake Lily? Yeah I’m fine.”

She must have awakened due to the sound of the fireballs. At least she was still asleep when I woke during midnight, that too in my bed for some reason.

Anyway, looking at her, it seems she has recovered mostly. Even if the Pegasus Knights do not come, Lily still has various other jobs like using Telepathy and healing magic as well.

“Where’s Fiona?”(kurono)

The one I need right now isn’t Lily but Fiona.

“She’s eating over there.”

In the direction where Lily’s small finger pointed, I saw the witch challenging a plate filled with a mountain of the same type of bread I was eating on the roof.

It’s not like she hasn’t noticed the enemy’s bombardment, but still to eat at such a time, she really does things at her own pace.

“Fiona.”

“Oh Kurono-san, Good Morning.”

Her golden eyes looked this way but her mouth is filled with bread as her cheeks are filled up. Are you a hamster!?

“Ou, good morning. Since you’re eating breakfast so elegantly, it’s fine to think that the enemy’s attack is not a big deal right?”

“n, that’s right—-\*gokugoku\*”(T/N:sound of drinking)

Before answering she drank her milk from her cup, no, her giant mug.

I wonder if she'll also spew everything out brilliantly like me if I asked 'Is Fiona a lesbian?' at such timing?

I'm afraid of what'll happen after that so I decide not to ask such a thing.

"puhaa—its firepower is on the same level as [Ignis Sagita]. It's just a simple attack with [long range catapult] technique included in it. I guess there's no problem since Kurono-san came to me."

"So it was the right decision to not attack."

"Yes, it must be a tactic to bring out the simple-minded 'demons' from their pov. Even if we don't go out, they'd fine if the guild building catches fire."

"I see. So my prediction was right more or less."

As long as we are in the guild, this bombardment is nothing more than a disturbing noise to us but if we go out carelessly, there's the danger to be burnt badly so I want to avoid that as much as possible.

"Is there any method to deal with it?"(kurono)

"Won't it be fine if we fire back as well?"(Fiona)

"How many magicians do we have that can actually do that?....."

"That's true. Even if it's a simple magic, it's still a Union magic used by multiple magicians together after all, I doubt we'd be able to do a proper bombardment."

Only those who have cooperated and practiced as a team can use Union magic.

We quite a lot of skilled magician adventurers among us but they are all specialized in solo play. A strong team won't be created just by gathering some strong magicians randomly. Especially, it's impossible to learn how to use a Union magic in such a short span of time.

"If only we had a cannon or something."(kurono)

I guess I'm asking for too much. Even a genius alchemist like Simon wouldn't be able to build a cannon so quickly. In the first place, we have neither the materials nor the facilities to do that.

"How about having just Lily-san attack from the air?"(Fiona)

“If the Pegasus Knights came inside those 30mins, we’ll probably be defeated.”

“I guess so.”

The girl Lily held fearsome strength to face off against the Pegasus Knights alone but there’s a time limit of 30mins in which she can show her full strength. I can’t let her go to the front lines recklessly.

Rather than that, since we have no other force that can fight against Pegasus Knights in mid air, I can’t have her sortie until they appear.

“And don’t treat Lily like a convenient pawn.”(Kurono)

“I think she’ll happily go and attack if Kurono-san asks her though.”(Fiona)

“I can actually imagine that so let’s stop.”

In my mind, I imagined Lily sortieing while wearing a headband with ‘Kamikaze’ written on it.

Since Lily really is too honest and obedient, she really might do so if asked.

“For the time being, let’s put up observers to make sure the enemy doesn’t start charging and prepare if the building gets damaged. Also, we need to accurately discern the position of the magician squad so we can plan a proper surprise attack.”

If we only use members that have high agility, it’s not exactly impossible.

But the fact that they’re hiding like that inside the forest, they must have become cautious due to Simon’s sniping yesterday.

“Isn’t a surprise attack too risky?”(Fiona)

“I don’t really want to do it either but if the adventurers start getting too dissatisfied, I won’t be able to help it.”

“I see, they do seem the type who don’t like staying inside their rooms.”

“Well, by tomorrow or day after tomorrow, the enemy would probably start charging again so I’m not really worried too much about it.”

“How can you say that they won’t attack today?”

“They had been obstructed so much in the river just yesterday, the next time

they come they'll at least prepare a bridge or a boat, in the worst case, they might even prepare a raft."

".....I see. Certainly that does seem plausible."

"If only the soldiers are coming, we can simply repel them back like yesterday. But if they prepare a way to cross the river, the next battle will become much harsher. After all, the heavy knights and magicians will also come to this side."

The 1st time the enemy attacked with only force and vigour so we were able to successfully push them back.

But the next, the enemy will come at full alert and then it'll be the true battle.

"In the end, the things we can do now are limited." (Fiona)

"Yeah, let's just wait patiently till the enemy comes charging here." (kurono)

# Chapter 117 – The Situation on the Opposite Shore

Estel who had been officially named as the commander of the Pegasus Knights was standing with dishevelled brown short hair and a clear drowsy face.

As long as she remains silent, her tall height and well proportioned face would give an impression of a gallant young woman but her slackened expression was spoiling her own atmosphere.

*yawn* Estel who opened her mouth large as she yawned didn't even feel the tension of the situation where she might need to go into the battlefield at any moment.

“Cover your mouth with your hand when yawning, it's immodest.”

The one reprimanded her was the eldest member of the squad, Flan.

She had been also officially appointed as the vice-commander of the Pegasus Knights.

“She enjoyed a lot yesterday!”

“So it can't be helped!”

The two who said that with indecent smiles on their faces were the sisters, Camy and Cathy.

“Shut up, be silent stupid sisters.”(estel)

She glared towards the two sisters with an even sharper gaze than her usual, but the sisters seemed unaffected probably because they had gotten used to it.

“Um, what do you mean by ‘enjoyed’?”

The one who asked that innocently was the youngest of the squad, Maty.

“You don't need to know yet.”

Flan who decided that it was not something to be told to a child, drove Maty away to the other side.

With a question mark floating above her head, Maty shook her redhair side tail and left obediently.

“But still, aren’t you a bit too relaxed? If we get an order to attack, our opponent will definitely be that Fairy, we’ll need to—”(flan)

“That’s exactly why, Flan. That cheeky fairy bitch won’t come out from such a shabby bombardment.”(estel)

Also that black box (building) doesn’t seem like it’ll get destroyed either, explained Estel.

“But our opponents are demons, you know?”(flan)

“They aren’t ‘stupid’ as we think. At least they have better brains than Camy and Cathy.”(estel)

What’s that supposed to mean!?—voices of protest came from her side, but Estel ignored it and spoke further.

“Probably, she’s the strongest demon with a DP inside Alsace, then she’ll be the boss, or something close to that position. If those guys with proper intelligent minds are at the top, they won’t take any stupid actions.”(estel)

The Pegasus Knights were currently acting as the escort for the magician squad conducting the bombardment on the Alsace village.

Although only one, if the enemy has a strong enough fighter that can fly, there was a need to protect the magicians from any attacks from the air. And the only one who could do that was these girls’ squad.

Conversely speaking, as long as Lily doesn’t appear, they have no job to do. They just have to stay on standby inside the forest till the bombardment ends.

If Estel’s words were correct, not just Lily, even other demons would probably not come out. And considering that not a single demon was seen even after some time had passed after the start of the bombardment, it was atleast half correct.

“Well, let’s rest as much as we can while we have the chance. My crotch hurts, I don’t wan’t to sit on a horse right now.”(estel)

Ahaha, Estel laughed vulgarly as Flan showed fed up face and gave a sigh.

"I don't think anyone would like being forced into it you know? Even if the other party is a man."

Inside Flan's head, the scene from last night came to her mind. Estel went and invited one of the medic boy to her tent, no, kidnapped him and took him inside her tent.

"Then I'll be gentler tonight."(estel)

".....um, this is still a battlefield in case you have forgotten."(flan)

"It's fine. I'll make sure nobody finds out."

Flan really had no choice but to sigh again. Although not to the levels of Camy and Cathy, Estel was also a problem child back when they were in the military academy as well. She wasn't the type that'll obediently listen to what other say.

"I'm might die next. I'll have as much fun as I can in the time being."(estel)

"You're speaking timidly unusually. Did you get attached to the man?"

"That might be so."

Estel answered Flan's sarcastic question with a serious face and without any anger. Then her sight moved towards her wounded left arm.

As a Pegasus Knight she had received preferential treatment and thus it had healed enough to be able to move freely again but the scars had still remained.

"But, I need to pay back the debt to that bitch for my comrades and this arm as well."

At the camp of the Cyprus mercenary group built a bit away from the Vato village, the 87 members were currently standing in the central vacant area.

Since they were not an army, they stood without any order or lines and were simply standing however they pleased.

"Say, he isn't going to suddenly say that he is dismissing us all here right?"

Ai who was hugging Tsumiki, talked with another one of the merc that was standing near her.

"No way. We haven't even done anything like an actual job after coming here even once. Maybe we are finally getting to do something?"

A man much larger than Ai and had a face very typical of a mercenary, answered.

"Those guys from Crusaders weren't able to capture that whatever village, right? Hehe this is a chance to quickly earn a name for ourselves!"

The one who said that energetically was a young boy mercenary, no he was an adventurer to be exact, but had joined with the Cyprus mercs for the Pandora expedition just like Ai.

"Chance, is it? But I feel that we won't really get to do something like that. I feel that there's a wall between the original members and us adventurers who joined later."

"Well that's true. They look like normal mercs at a glance but they're somehow very obedient. It's really uncanny."

"Ah, I felt the same! I haven't even been able to even talk to them properly. They're definitely hiding something!"

They looked towards the original members of the group with eyes of suspicion.

The group was originally made of around 30 people but for the Pandora expedition, they recruited members from the guilds and as a result 50 adventurers like Ai also participated with them.

However although they were an 87 man mercenary group travelling together, but from the adventurer's pov the members who were already a part of the group felt a bit weird to them.

It was just as how the man or the boy had said. They rarely spoke and were too obedient for mercenaries who used violence to control everything.

Although, due to that there were no disputes or troubles among the adventurers and the mercs and it was always the adventurer side that started a quarrel.

“It’s a rumour but apparently they are a slave army.”

“That commander Cyprus sure loves to throw money but it still seems a bit unbelievable. But I guess a young man from a rich family leading a ‘brainwashed’ slave army fits quite well as well.”

If that’s true, then it seemed more plausible if he was forcefully leading them through the use of authority.

“Well, does it even matter? We’ll make do even if that flippant leader ran away. We are adventurers after all!”

“That’s true, well, even then, it might be good to be dismissed earlier.”

“Oi, he came out.”

As Ai raised her eyes on the man’s words, Cyprus came and stood over a wooden box-like stand with his usual listless expression.

As usual he wasn’t wearing any armour either and his clothes left his chest bare and his tone was still the same joking-like even when he was in front of all his members.

“Ah, has everyone gathered? It’s troublesome so I’ll keep this short. We are going to attack that whatever village where those demons are.”

A commotion rose among the members, but, it wasn’t really too surprising either.

Since they were unable to defeat the enemy yesterday, this time they were going to use the mercenary group to try and corner those demons. Since they had brought these mercs along, they needed to use them as well.

“We’ll depart tomorrow and attack them just like that. Well, everyone prepare suitably as you wish, that’s it, dismissed.”

Without taking even a single question or doubt, Cyprus quickly left the place.

“Uoohh!! A proper job finally!!”

Starting with the boy, most of the adventurers were happy that their turn had come.

But Ai’s expression wasn’t very good.

"haah, I really have a bad feeling about this."

# Chapter 118 – Sacrificial Pawn

The next day, on the 4th of Hatsubi, the fireball bombardment was still continuing from early morning.

“Just because they have a lot of magicians, it doesn’t mean they have to fire so many stupidly, geez.....”

As I looked outside from the window of the guild, I suddenly noticed a group different from the white crusaders even beyond the river shore.

That is.....

“Are they a mercenary group perhaps?”(Fiona)

“Uooh!? Don’t appear so suddenly Fiona.”

It seems the witch, who appeared beside me out of nowhere, could also see that group.

“But all of their outfits looked different just like us.”(kurono)

“Yes, due to the Pandora expedition all the adventurers had been recruited by various mercenary groups and it seems, the various Crusader squads have hired these groups.”(fiona)

“Oh right, Fiona was also a mercenary earlier, right?”

“Accurately speaking, I was an adventurer that became a part of one of the merc groups. But at my time, Virginia felt like it’ll fall sooner or later so there weren’t many people there.”

“So it’s different now, is it?’

To conquer all of the territory of Daedalus, the Crusaders received various reinforcements from their HQ. it seems the mercenaries were no exception either.

“Are they strong?”

“There are those who are famous for being strong; strong to beat us easily even if they fight us head on, but other than those rare exceptions, rest are

simply not worth mentioning. They just rely on numbers for everything.”

“I see. So which one are those guys?”

“The strong merc groups will use the same equipment and flag like an army. Since they don’t have something like that, they must be some random merc group.”

I’m relieved that they are not strong enough that we need to be extremely cautious against.

But, just a single group of mercs had the same number as ours. They’ll give the same level of threat as the Crusader army.

As I was thinking such things, a report from one of the surveillance squad came to me using Lily’s telepathy network.

“Kurono-san, an enemy squad, that seems like mercenaries are heading towards us. They are already near the opposite shore.”

This voice belonged to one of the rank 1 Summoner who used Windwolves as servants.

In such a situation where I can’t send everyone around the village, such guys are a really big help.

“I can see them from here as well. The bombardment is still going on but we have no choice but to move out right now.”

I looked towards Fiona and asked.

“We had turned them to swiss cheese just the day before yesterday with our crossfire but still they are sending the merc squad as a sacrificial pawn, is that what the enemy commander is thinking?”

“In such a harsh battle, it has always been the mercenaries who have to bear the full brunt first. They are the ones who are hired after all, it’ll be fine as long as they could at least die fighting, right?”

“I see. I learnt something new again—“

Concentrating on the telepathy, I notified each and every adventurer holding up inside the guild.

“—The enemy is coming, get to battle positions!”

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“Ooh. So that’s the rumoured black box! It really is completely black!”

While being on the shore of the Rone river that was being rained with arrows and lightning, Ai nonchalantly gave her impression.

In front of her, she could see the various mercs, without any sense of unity, trying to cross the river while clinging on to a log.

Compared to the day before yesterday, the logs made things better but the actual situation of the battle was in fact deteriorating instead.

The demons didn’t have a lot of archers but their accuracy was top class. Just like before, due to the lightning magic, electric current ran through the river and many of them were drowning due to it.

And the worst thing was,

“What!? Oi, what was he shot by!?”

“Someone put up a shield! We can’t move forward with so many difficulties like this!!”

With a *giyarigiyari* sound, countless black bullets were flying all over the place.

Its source was from two places. One was a magician in full black clothes who was firing from his baton and the other was a skeleton demon, who looked exactly like the reaper from fairy tales, who was firing the bullets from a weird tube like item.

The crossfire created through the firing of the sure kill black bullets were the same as the day before yesterday. Any idiot who tried attacking directly from the front was instantly slaughtered.

But those who had defensive magic or defensive martial arts were still somehow alive even inside that black storm.

“C’mon c’mon, hurry up and move guys! Let’s go and kill some demons

gyahahaha!"

The only one who was still getting fired up even in such a situation was the commander Cyprus.

Just as Ai had thought, he clearly showed that he did not care even a single bit about the lives of his subordinates.

But still, the mercs who were crossing the river and were starting to attack did not even hear his voice.

"nn? Aah, thank god, Ai-chan had not yet started attacking." (Cyprus)

With his usual grinning face, he approached Ai who was also standing on the riverside.

"Uwah."

And the same as usual, Ai also showed her us plain displeased face. But if he were to back off from just that, Cyprus wouldn't have involved with her in the first place.

"Wow the demons' attacks are really amazing, everyone's so desperate. But really thank god, if Ai-chan had gone there then—“

Cyprus gave a glance towards the other shore. In his view, one by one, mercs, whose names he didn't even know were spewing blood and falling.

“—You would have clearly died. That would really be troublesome after all I have yet to lay my hands on you. You can't die just like that, I have few sources of enjoyment anyway.”

"Oh, then you should go there and do something about it."

Ai pointed towards the Alsace's gate as she glared towards Cyprus with disgusted eyes.

There, a magician whose defensive magic had been destroyed was blown away from the volley of bullets.

"No way no way, I would be an idiot to go there."

"Haa? Weren't you the one who ordered the attack?"

"That's because the old man Norz gave me that job? If I didn't do it I won't get

the money, you know? Well, it seems quite a lot have died already, I should probably call them back now, lol."(T/N: I know he doesn't actually say 'lol' but that perfectly fits the way he spoke those last lines which made it necessary.)

If I can earn money like this then merc work is super easy! Guffawed Cyprus as he said that. Ai glared at him with disdain and said.

"If you're going to return then do it alone."(ai)

"Eh, what? Ai-chan could it be that you want to attack as well? Let's not do that, c'mon, let's return together and do good things with me."

Ai nimble dodged Cyprus who cheekily stretched his arms towards her.

"I told you to not touch me. Rather than going back with you, I'd rather go there."

"Oioi, are you serious, just be more obedient and—"

"Then, let's go shall we Tsumiki?"

Ignoring Cyprus' words, Ai took her cat Tsumiki and moved towards the river.

Since she had already moved away from Cyprus, she didn't know what kind of expression he was making but Ai had no interest to know it either.

Just in front of Ai was where the river started and many other mercs were also about to depart. She moved towards one of the logs to go towards the other mercs.

"Alright, let's go!"

""OU!!""

"Ou!"

The brave shouts of the mercs and the stupid sounding shout of Ai were raised in a chorus.

And thus the mercs started rowing towards the river that was still quite cold.

From the air, the rain of arrows and lightning still continued.

"Uoh, close!"

The man in front of Ai blocked an arrow that was coming with perfect precision

towards her with his buckler.

“ooh, thanks old man!”(Ai)

“Don’t call me an old man! Or rather, aren’t you an archer as well? Why don’t you fire back a little?!”

“Ah, is that so? Then, I’ll fire with all I’ve got!!”

With a full smile, Ai skilfully climbed over the log. By the way, tsumiki was over her head currently.

Ai held the log between her pretty legs underneath her miniskirt and took a stable stance.

The reason the log didn’t roll over was because other mercs were also using it as a support.

“You’ll shoot from there?”

“I’ll shoot with all I’ve got so I leave advancing to you guys.”(Ai)

“Even though you’re so heavy.”

“How rude!!”(ai)

Just fire already! Everyone looked at Ai with eyes filled with reproach.

“Then here I go!”

It was suspicious whether she was dependable during battles. Ai who set up her old looking wooden bow, nocked an arrow and stretched the bowstring to its very limits.

“Take this!”

Such a noisy woman! As the other mercs had such thoughts, the arrow was fired from Ai’s bow.

With a flimsy unreliable trajectory, the arrow flew towards the far away horizon.

“Well, I didn’t really expect much in the first place.”(Merc 1)

“Well, as long as it didn’t hit an ally, it’s fine.”(merc2)

As they looked at Ai with a fed up face, Ai made a bitter *gununu* sound.

“It’s fine so come down already. It’s not like it’ll reach from here anyway.”

“Eh, wait, one more time, let me shoot one more time!”(Ai)

“Shut up, just get down alrea—shit!?”

“Huh?”

When Ai looked towards the front, a lightning magic attack, [Line Sagita] rushed towards her from the front.

*Bachiiin!!*

With the sound of an electricity bursting,

“abababaah!!”

Ai who took a direct hit fell down from the log.

“Oi, little girl!?”

The lightning that exploded travelled to the bodies of the mercs as well as pain and numbness ran through their bodies.

They, who were doing their best just to cling on to the log so that they don’t drown, had no time to go and save Ai.

And furthermore, this was the centre of the river. The depth was enough that their feet didn’t reach the ground. With paralysed limbs, her fate would only be to drown in the end.

“Shit, so pitiful.”

Ai who had been flown away by the river was sent off by the mercs and was swept downstream.